



## President's Corner

By Ann Wolf



As I write this letter to the members of CRLA, I am looking out my window and seeing the green returning to my trees. I know that spring is here, and it's time to think about getting my garden in shape. For many of you, this is the time of year when you are gearing down, looking to the end of the semester, and wondering what the new group of students will be like in the fall. I know that the stress of tying up loose ends and making it to graduation are what our students are thinking about. Spring break is over, and it is time to get ready for exams. Those of you in learning assistance centers are looking at the long list of students who have signed up for help thinking that this is the magic pill that will allow them to pass the course that they have not given enough attention to all semester. We all know that this will end soon but maybe not soon enough. I am feeling your stress.

I would like to share with you that the CRLA Board passed a motion to increase yearly dues by ten dollars while at the February on-site board meeting in San Diego. This means that 2012 dues will be raised from \$50.00 to \$60.00. We were very sad to do this, but as we reviewed the operating budget for 2011, it was clear to the board that existing funding would not cover our expenses if we were going to accomplish some of our goals with technology and professional development. We have heard from the membership that funding to attend the yearly CRLA conference is almost nonexistent, and so the professional development committee is working on offering webinars and online workshops for all members. Recently, the board approved funding to expand our available space on the website in order to archive materials and make copies of the *JCRL* older than five years available digitally to members. Watch for this to happen in the future. Vicki Papineau, Membership Coordinator, and Rick Sheets, Technology Coordinator, are beginning to place CRLA materials in an archive on the web site for members. Watch for that announcement on the home page in the future as well. These are a few of the new expenditures that allow us to provide more information for our members, and that is why we need an increase in dues at this time.

I hope you have saved November 9-12, 2011, in your calendars as Norm Stahl, Conference Chair, and Maureen DuPont, On-site Chair, are busy planning for the San Diego conference. We also want to welcome our new member on the board, Incoming President-Elect and Conference Chair for 2012, Melissa Thomas. Melissa will be chairing the combined CRLA/CASP conference in Houston.

Finally, I would like you all to be aware of changes happening in Developmental Education. At the NADE conference in Washington, D.C., there was a town hall event with speakers sharing some of the changes happening in the political arena in many states dealing with acceleration, course redesign, emporium models, and many other changes. Please watch what is happening in your state and share with others in your state meetings and conferences. If we are informed we can address the negative comments coming out of misinformed higher education boards across the country.

*Ann Wolf*

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## Young Professional Involvement

*By Dana Jablonski, Georgia Institute of Technology,  
And Kelly Herbolich, Saint Louis University*



As young professionals arriving at our first CRLA conference, we were not sure what to expect. By attending Student Affairs conferences, we were guided towards a notion of large-scale, national conferences that covered a multitude of areas and only briefly covered academic affairs issues. Belonging to the world of academic support, we knew that CRLA could provide us with much more specialized information.

When we first arrived in Salt Lake City, we realized that we were surrounded by professionals who were more established and confident in their careers. We retreated to our room to think about how we would successfully connect but quickly left behind any concerns about being the “youngest people there.” After flipping through the conference booklet and giving each other a pep-talk, we headed to the “First Timer’s FYI Welcome”. There, we began to see the value that the CRLA board members place upon new professionals’ involvement. We realized that even though we may be a bit newer in our career path, the CRLA community provides specialized opportunities including professional development and mentoring.

As you begin a new position, your time is spent gaining an understanding of your university’s culture. If you come from the world of Student Affairs, then you might more naturally understand the college culture from the student development lens and feel less confident about fully understanding the faculty perspective and academic affairs.

CRLA helps bridge the gap between academic and student affairs, providing insight into what it means to be part of the learning assistance and developmental education field. Involvement in CRLA complements involvement with other student affairs organizations, like ACPA or NASPA, so that you more fully understand the unique issues and guiding practices and relate them back to your university’s services.

CRLA is a cost efficient way to become involved on a national level. As we all continue to face budget constraints, CRLA membership remains a feasible option to gain professional development. In regard to conference participation, the prices are much lower than many other national conferences.

If your professional development goals include presentation experiences, then CRLA also provides an opportunity to ease into presenting on a national level. The smaller-scale conference environment facilitates a better exchange of ideas and more meaningful feedback that is rooted in similar experiences and goals. Many of the presentations we attended contained concrete examples and information that we could easily implement on our own campuses.

In addition, a young professional may take advantage of many leadership positions in CRLA. The Board of CRLA provides opportunities to create an action plan for the organization based on CRLA’s Guiding Principles. Involvement in a Special Interest Group allows you to contribute to student success by discussing specific areas or interests. At the national conference, CRLA provided a mentorship opportunity to take advantage of the esteemed colleagues present to discuss ideas and commonalities over lunch.

One of the more challenging aspects of the learning assistance field is the lack of national benchmarks and best practices to guide academic support systems. CRLA provides organization to this collective goal, and as a member, you gain a mentoring relationship to help you guide your university’s services. We gained information on national practices and assessment techniques from others at the CRLA conference. Since we were able to easily discuss our professional experiences, we could more clearly envision how to use the information we obtained. Furthermore, we walked away with names of people that we felt confident and comfortable contacting for future questions and discussions about tutoring practices, CRLA certification, and viability of ideas.

See **YOUNG PROFESSIONAL**, Page 3

## YOUNG PROFESSIONAL

CONTINUED FROM Page 2

Although we walked into the CRLA conference skeptical about what we could gain as young professionals, we walked away feeling more confident in our abilities as university professionals. By providing examples at other institutions, CRLA helps provide a vision of the future that can be revised and applied to our campuses. As the 2010 conference came to a close, we changed our attitudes and felt invited into the conversation. As CRLA prepares for the 2011 conference, we extend this invitation to you and hope that you feel welcomed into the community.

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

**Editorial Board:**

**Dorothy Bonser**

**Maggi Miller**

**Linda Russell**

See **Publication Guidelines** for submission information and dates or email **Lindley Alyea** at [lindley@txstate.edu](mailto:lindley@txstate.edu).



*The Board of Directors of the College Reading & Learning Association invites you to attend the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in San Diego, California, November 9-12, 2011.*



**Hands Across the Curriculum:  
Partnerships for College  
Success**

[www.crla.net/conference](http://www.crla.net/conference)



## Leadership Opportunities

*By Gretchen Starks-Martin, St. Cloud State  
CRLA Executive Assistant*

**Help us create a positive future for CRLA!** Encourage interested CRLA members in good standing to think about applying in 2011. We are looking for members who have been active in the organization and are interested in volunteering for a leadership position.

**Complete job descriptions and application instructions for all open leadership positions are available at <http://www.crla.net/leadership/opportunities.htm>.**

**The following applications are open immediately until filled.**

### **CRLA CONFERENCE REGISTRAR**

The registrar coordinates all aspects of the conference registration process before, during, and after the conference. He or she supports the CRLA Board, especially the President-Elect, to provide a positive registration experience for conference participants and serves as liaison with the database company for registration.

### **INTERNATIONAL MENTOR TRAINING PROGRAM CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR**

The IMTPC Coordinator serves as the leader for all aspects of the IMTPC program including promoting IMTPC, processing applications for certification, responding to requests for information, coordinating IMTPC evaluator training and activities, maintaining database of certified programs, and coordinating work of Assistant Coordinator(s).

### **CONFERENCE ON-SITE CHAIR FOR 2014**

The On-Site Chair submits a bid to host the annual conference and is usually a resident of the community in which the conference will be held. (Two individuals can share this position as Co-Chairs.) He or she creates an On-Site Conference Committee and subcommittees, appoints subcommittee chairpersons, and serves as contact person with the President-Elect for all local arrangements.

**The following application is open until June 1<sup>st</sup> and begins after the 2011 CRLA conference in San Diego, California for a 3-year term.**

### **CONFERENCE SITE SELECTION CHAIR**

The Site Selection Chair aids the Board in identifying prospective site chair(s) for the Annual Conference, creates/updates a Request for Proposals (RFP) in concert with the President and/or President-Elect, distributes the RFP to suitable hotels/resorts in or near the prospective conference cities, reviews initial bids from properties, inspects possible conference sites, and makes recommendations to the Board concerning conference sites.

**Complete job descriptions and application instructions for all open leadership positions are available at <http://www.crla.net/leadership/opportunities.htm>.**

If you have questions, please contact CRLA President, Ann Wolf at [annwolf@crla.net](mailto:annwolf@crla.net) [Tel. 505-861-2142 | Cell. 505-859-1073] or CRLA Executive Assistant, Gretchen Starks-Martin at [gastarks@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:gastarks@stcloudstate.edu).

## **CRLA Myth Busters**

**Myth:** My tutor training program is certified, so I need only complete some of the ITPC re-certification application!

**Truth:** Because it will have been 3-5 years since your last application, a complete application is required each time. Applications are now in a digital format, so you will be able to update your own saved copy to complete the application each time you apply for re-certification. This ensures that we have all information updated each time a program is re-certified.

## Professional Development Survey Sheds Light on Membership Needs

By Lori Saxby, University of Southern Indiana  
CRLA Professional Development Coordinator

For complete survey results, email Lori Saxby at [lsaxby@usi.edu](mailto:lsaxby@usi.edu).

One of the major goals of the Professional Development (PD) Committee was to conduct a membership-wide survey regarding the professional development needs and interests of our members. Thanks to Nita Meola, PD Committee member, for facilitating the survey through Survey Monkey in late February and early March.

Regarding CRLA's current services, participants indicated a strong positive interest (75% or more) in having the conference handouts posted on the CRLA web site, viewing the Teaching Tips online and in *News/Notes*, and in having an annual fall conference. In addition, having state, regional/chapter conferences, workshops, and scholarships for professional development received 50% to 75% interest.

When asked about new directions for professional development through CRLA, participants indicated a strong positive interest in the expansion of professional development through SRC's and SIG's and in having *Journal of College Reading and Learning (JCRL)* issues over two years old placed on the CRLA web site (75% or better interest).

Survey participants strongly suggested that they want professional development that introduces them to new ideas or strategies, is focused on particular topics, enables them to meet their professional goals, and is free or low-cost. In addition, being able to schedule professional development on their own time, getting together with colleagues frequently, and including members of other professional organizations in professional development received overall positive responses (50 % to 75% interest).

Although interested in learning, CRLA members are busy and need these learning experiences to be reasonably quick, inexpensive/free, accessible, and flexible because schedules and appointments often prevent participation in one-time opportunities.

Learning and study strategies, assessment, and brain compatible teaching and learning received the highest interest among the topics listed (over 75%). The following options received overall positive response (50%-75% interest):

College reading	Learning assistance center management	Research and evaluation
Tutor training topics	Learning disabilities	Learning communities
Peer assistance programs	Technology & distance education	Leadership
Multicultural issues	Tutor training certification	Developmental/basic writing

The Professional Development committee would like to thank those who participated in this survey. The results will help guide the decision-making process and the direction CRLA takes. Since there is a strong interest in "just-in-time" information, the committee is developing a link on the CRLA web site that will house information for sharing the best for student success. This will be a work in progress, but, as always, your feedback will be helpful and appreciated.

See **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**, Page 7

**Congratulations to Rosemary Bienz from the University of Mount Union in Ohio! Rosemary is the lucky winner of a one-year CRLA membership renewal for completing our professional development survey!**

## CRLA 2011 Election Results

*By Rick Sheets, Paradise Valley Community College, Retired  
CRLA Technology Coordinator*

CRLA's second year of e-voting saw a major savings in costs (70%) over the normal paper-ballot elections of past years. The CRLA Board extends its thanks to the candidates and to members who voted (March 1-14).

**CRLA's new incoming President-elect**, Melissa Thomas (University of Texas at San Antonio), will chair the November 2012 conference in Houston, serve as president in 2013, and remain on the Board as past-president in 2014. **CRLA's incoming Secretary**, Linda Russell (Minneapolis Community & Technical College), will continue in her current role as our secretary through December 2013.



**The By-laws amendment asking the membership to change the names of CRLA's two certification programs to include the word "Training" passed. CRLA's two certification programs have been officially renamed as follows:**

IMTPC: International Mentor Training Program Certification and  
ITTPC: International Tutor Training Program Certification

*The CRLA Board of Directors wishes to congratulate its new President-Elect, Melissa Thomas (above) and continuing Secretary, Linda Russell (left). Incoming officers take office following the 2011 CRLA Conference in San Diego. For additional information on our incoming officers, visit*

[http://www.crla.net/membership/2011\\_CRLA\\_Elected%20Officers.doc](http://www.crla.net/membership/2011_CRLA_Elected%20Officers.doc).

*Congratulations Melissa & Linda!*



*The PA/NJ Chapter of CRLA held its annual spring conference March 18, 2011, on the Northampton Community College campus in Bethlehem, PA. In addition to attending a selection of workshops, 149 participants collected five boxes of children's books for the local Cops 'n' Kids Children's Literacy Program. PA/NJ members also had an opportunity to attend a webinar presented by Frank Christ with assistance from Rick Sheets. For additional information, contact Suzanne McCarthy, PA/NJ Chapter President at [mccarthys@centenarycollege.edu](mailto:mccarthys@centenarycollege.edu) or visit [www.crlapanj.50webs.org](http://www.crlapanj.50webs.org). (Pictured left are Ibtissam Abdallah, Tutor, Union County College; Gail Hein, Learning Centers Director, UCC; and Paola Altamirano, Tutor, UCC.)*

## Special Leaders Wanted for Special Interest Groups

By Karon Mathews, Texas A&M University, Past President

In order to “Share the Best for Student Success,” it is vital for the SIGs to have energetic, enthusiastic LEADERS. Serving as a SIG Leader will provide you an opportunity to contribute to CRLA in a leadership role and is an excellent position for new professionals with new ideas or “seasoned” professionals looking to explore a new professional development endeavor.

At present, CRLA needs SIG Leaders for math, developmental/basic writing, and learning disabilities. If one of these is of special interest to you, if one of these is in your field of study and work, you are encouraged to serve as a SIG Leader of math, developmental/basic writing, or learning disabilities.

Additional information concerning the position including application procedures may be found on the CRLA website, [www.crla.net](http://www.crla.net), or you can call or e-mail Karon Mathews (979.458.0684, [kmathews@tamu.edu](mailto:kmathews@tamu.edu)), coordinator of SIGs and S/R/Cs, to discuss the position. You can help CRLA “Share the Best for Student Success”!

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## Do Your Programs Meet (CAS) Standards?

By Karen Agee, University of Northern Iowa, CRLA Representative to CAS, and Becky Johnen, Education Consulting Services, Inc.

Are you evaluating your learning center's programs using internationally recognized standards of excellence? CRLA sits on the board of directors of the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS) and contributed to the development of the CAS standards and guidelines for learning assistance programs. The standards are available free of charge as a service to CRLA members; go to <http://www.crla.net/membership/index.htm> and click on the keys. The Self-Assessment Guide for Learning Assistance Programs is available for \$35 online from CAS at [www.cas.edu](http://www.cas.edu).

If you have questions about how to use CAS standards to assess student learning and development outcomes in your program, please contact Karen Agee ([karen.agee@uni.edu](mailto:karen.agee@uni.edu)) or Becky Johnen ([palfys@comcast.net](mailto:palfys@comcast.net)).

## Professional Development

CONTINUED FROM Page 5

The committee would also like to encourage each SIG and S/R/C to continue to look for ways to provide on-going professional development to the members- either face-to-face or through online opportunities such as webinars. Since we are all volunteers, each of us can do his or her share by helping our leaders make these opportunities happen.

Finally, the committee would like to encourage all members to check out the professional development scholarship opportunities through CRLA. The deadline for applications is August 1, 2011. Visit <http://www.crla.net/scholarships&awards.htm> for additional information.

## Tips for Student Success

*Interested in sharing the best for student success? Submit your tips for student success on the topic of your choice to Lindley Workman Alyea, Editor of NewsNotes at [lindley@txstate.edu](mailto:lindley@txstate.edu).*

Find your student life rhythm, one that balances study and play and other aspects of your life that sustain you.  
- **Rosie Woodruff, Director, Learning Assistance Center, University of Hawaii – Manoa Campus & CRLA Treasurer, December 2010**

It's normal to lose confidence as a learner, especially when you are trying something new. Remember that building confidence requires conscious effort – focus on success, ask for help, stay involved in things you are already good at while learning new things.  
- **Elizabeth Boretz, Director, Student Advising & Learning Center, University of California-Merced, December 2010**

Get at least 8 hours of sleep every night. And remember that failing to plan is planning to fail!  
- **Roberta Schotka, Director of Programs, Wellesley College, January 2011**

Believe deeply in what you do for students – it lies at the heart of your program's effectiveness, quality, and professionalism.  
- **Jan Norton, Director, Center for Academic Resources, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, January 2011**

Ask questions! If it is unclear, ask or you may never know.  
- **Becky Barge, Senior Student Program Advisor, University of New Mexico, February 2011**

Get to know your professors, even in large lecture classes (if applicable). It will pay off in more ways than you can imagine.  
- **Jeanne Higbee, Professor, University of Minnesota, February 2011**

Meet your major department's administrative professional (secretary) and get her/him to know/like you. At some point, you'll need the help.  
- **Norm Stahl, Northern Illinois University, CRLA President-Elect, March 2011**

You can't teach them until you reach them!  
- **Wally Barnes, Director of the Reading Center, Sam Houston State University, March 2011**

Pursue undergraduate research in any discipline. You will increase your critical thinking skills and improve your ability to understand pertinent academic theories and concepts. (You'll learn better!)  
- **Yolanda Clarke, Director of Academic Enrichment Services, Ithaca College, April 2011**

Break an assignment down into components and then use it as a checklist!  
- **Melissa Thomas, Assistant Director of Graduate Learning Assistance, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2012 CRLA President-Elect, April 2011**

For effective studying, heed the research – based brain rule and don't cram. Instead, build repetition (rehearsal) over time to get the important stuff into long term memory.  
- **Kate O'Dell, Professor Emerita of Teacher Education, University of Alaska at Anchorage, May 2011**

Learn the names of your students! Relationships start with names.  
- **Kathy Stein, Director, Academic Center for Excellence, Sul Ross State University, May 2011**

## Old Man Winter Has No Hold on San Diego

*By Norm Stahl, University of Northern Illinois, President-Elect*

Hey there, scouts. It seems like winter will never end for us in the upper, lower Midwest. This evening once again the thermometer is hugging the freezing point, and dipping into tunes from the largest collection of surf music in DeKalb doesn't make one believe that Old Man Winter will ever let go of his hold on us. So I ask myself what truly heralds the coming of spring? Why, it's the release of the CRLA *NewsNotes* with its long awaited column from the President-Elect. Indeed, I know that you are beside yourself with excitement. It's truly like sunshine itself.

I know that this is true as I sat down and reread the spring *NewsNotes* going back across the many years. I even have old paper copies. (Did I mention that it is below freezing outside, and I have cabin fever?) My review shows that there is an informal macrostructure to be followed. So my task is relatively easy.

First and foremost, I want to thank Ann Wolf and her conference team for putting on a wonderful conference in Salt Lake City. I know you join me in sending them such wishes. CRLA has a history of top-notch annual conferences, and the Salt Lake City conference ranks as one of the best. There were great keynoters, wonderful sessions, and extracurricular activities galore. Bravo, scouts!

Next, it is time to talk about the upcoming annual conference. That is easy. Take out whatever electronic device now controls your life and program in the following dates, **November 9–12, 2011** (for those of you who are technology challenged, use your date book; for those of you who are organizationally challenged, write this information on the back of your hand). Next go out to your car and program **San Diego, California** into your GPS unit.

The 2011 CRLA annual conference will be held at the **Hyatt Regency Mission Bay**, a great venue. The hotel's rooms are pure class, and the grounds are delightful. The swimming pool could bring out the kid in you (and the pool bar guarantees such will be the case). The hotel's restaurant, Red Marlin, features a California modern cuisine. That simply means you'll like the fare. San Diego is known as a family friendly conference venue, so bring the kids. The Hyatt Regency Mission Bay is the closest hotel in town to SeaWorld, and it is only a quick cab/bus ride to the Gaslamp Quarter for the partiers in CRLA (that would be you). There is also the award winning San Diego Zoo, Old Town, and the Balboa Park museums. For those folks wanting to live on the edge, you have both Tijuana and Legoland. Within 15 minutes safe walking distance of the hotel, you have the Pacific Ocean and a really tacky amusement park.

We have confirmed **W. Norton Grubb**, the David Pierpont Gardner Professor in Higher Education at the University of California at Berkeley, to be our keynoter. His research covers reforms in high schools and community colleges, the effects of institutional practices on teaching quality, the interactions among education and training programs, community colleges, and the flow of students into and through postsecondary education among other topics. He is the author of a number of books including *The Money Myth: School Resources, Outcomes, and Equity*, *The Education Gospel: The Economic Power of Schooling*, and *Honored But Invisible: An Inside Look at Teaching in Community Colleges*. I really look forward to this presentation, and so should you.

Of course, we have our traditions. Our esteemed President **Ann Wolf** will keep our long tradition of presidential addresses alive. Further, you will have multiple opportunities to interact with colleagues from your state and regional chapters, as well as our special interest groups. You will be able to select from any number of preconference institutes, concurrent sessions, roundtable sessions, and lunch with a mentor sessions. We had over 160 proposals submitted for consideration this year. Finally, Russ Hodges is overseeing the Hospitality Suite again this year. That's great for you. Of course, we may never be invited back to a Hyatt.

I close this column by stating how privileged that Maureen Dupont, our On-Site Chair, and I feel in being able to bring you the very best your CRLA has to offer at the 44<sup>th</sup> annual conference. We will do everything in our power to bring you a quality conference with the best of research and practice and the best of camaraderie. Additional information will be sent out via the listserv and the CRLA membership blasts in the months ahead.

## Membership Services Offers New Options

By Vicki Papineau, Central Community College, Membership Coordinator

There have been a lot of changes this past month with Member Services!

CRLA's new mailing address is  
 CRLA Member Services  
 1201 Allen Dr. #345  
 Grand Island, NE 68803

We have a new database website that can be accessed by visiting <http://www.crla.net/membership/index.htm> and clicking on the "Click here to join or renew your Membership" link.

We are now offering more payment options using **Amazon** and **PayPal** to process credit card payments. (You do not need a PayPal account to use your credit card. You can use a regular Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover card.) Payment can also be made by mailing in a check.

Members can also purchase ITTPC pins and the *Tutor Training Handbook* independently from membership.

We hope these features and many others will make our Member Services website more user friendly.

## ATTENTION SIG and S/R/C Leaders and Raffle Enthusiasts:

Please don't forget to bring your donation items for the 2011 in San Diego! Proceeds benefit CRLA professional development scholarships!



## Upcoming Events

- Jun 1: SIG and S/R/C funding requests, goals and activities report deadline for submission to Karon Mathews at [kmathews@tamu.edu](mailto:kmathews@tamu.edu).
- Jun 1: Membership deadline for "member" rates for conference registration. (Membership paid after this date will be applied to the next membership year.)
- Jun 25-Jul 29: Kellogg Institute at Appalachian State University, Boone, NC. <http://www.ncde.appstate.edu/kellogg/>
- Jul: CRLA Call to Conference posted on website. (Contact Norm Stahl for more information at [stahl@niu.edu](mailto:stahl@niu.edu).)
- Jul 15: Email addresses needed from CLADEA organizations for Calls to Conference notification.
- Jul 19: New Mexico CRLA Chapter Conference, Albuquerque, NM. (Contact Becky Barge for more information at [bbarge@unm.edu](mailto:bbarge@unm.edu).)
- Jul 24-29: Advanced Kellogg Institute at Appalachian State University, Boone, NC.
- Jul 24-29: Technology Institute for Developmental Educators (TIDE), Texas State University-San Marcos, San Marcos, TX. For more information, visit <http://tide.ci.txstate.edu>.
- Aug 1: Deadline for Scholarships and Awards applications. For more information, visit <http://www.crla.net/scholarships&awards.htm>.
- Aug 1: CRLA Conference Program advertisement deadline including CLADEA reciprocal agreement ads; publishers sponsorship deadline.
- Aug 15: Deadline for submissions for September 2011 *NewsNotes*.