



News and Views

Summer 2009

Volume VIII, No. 6

A Message from the President

Dessie Williams



Best wishes to each of you as you continue your summer vacation. While most of you are taking advantage of this time with family with family and friends, your Executive Council of LADE is preparing for the Fall 2009 Conference scheduled for October 29-30.

The stage is set for us to converge on Lafayette at the Wingate by Wyndham located at 702 East Kaliste Saloom Road. The Wingate is a newly-built contemporary and distinctive hotel, and it is sure to provide the ideal backdrop for our annual meeting.

Awards Luncheon speaker will be Sonya Strahm, NADE Emeritus Cabinet member and President of the Indiana Association for Developmental Education (INADE). Sonya's experience as Past Vice President of NADE and educator at Taylor University in Fort Wayne enables her to bring a fresh perspective on best practices and methodologies in the field of Developmental Education.

Lafayette is one of the nicest conference sites in the state, as will be evident upon our arrival. From swamp tours and lively zydeco music to recreations of Cajun villages, Lafayette offers visitors an unparalleled glimpse into the heart of Cajun Country. Known as the unofficial capital of French Louisiana, this city of 105,000 is located in an area in south Louisiana made up of twenty-two parishes collectively known as Acadiana. Travelers come from all over the world to Lafayette to experience its unique culture. The city is hosting a city-wide conference, Louisiana Gulf Coast Oil Exposition, LAGCOE, that will conclude as we will be preparing to begin; so come ready to see much activity taking place.

What a wonderful opportunity to engage in intellectual exchange and connect with colleagues from other higher education institutions. I encourage everyone to submit a presentation proposal; consider nominating a colleague or yourself for one of the prestigious LADE awards; complete registration forms that are online at www.ladeonline.org/lade.html; and make hotel reservations while the block is available at 337.234.2700. The hotel is also spotlighted at <http://www.lafayettetravel.com/visitors/>. I look forward to seeing you in October.



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For questions about content, suggestions about or submissions to future newsletters, send communications to leee@mybrcc.edu or mjoyner12@cox.net

Innovations at Louisiana Delta Community College

Ann Deas

As many of you know, Louisiana Delta Community College, as the newest community college in Louisiana, is still using “borrowed” space for its growing programs. However, on April 9, after months of ups-and-downs, we finally got to “turn some dirt.” The new campus will be welcomed by all faculty, staff, and students who now enjoy the burden of staggered schedules, campus commutes, and NO MORE SPACE!

However, close quarters have not put a damper on the LDCC spirit or on our efforts to build a cutting-edge program for all students.

As a new campus, quality content and assessment are our major concerns. The Developmental Education Committee, with the cooperation of all developmental instructors, created and is using assignment and course-specific rubrics that evaluate writing assignments in reading and English courses. Also, portfolios verify student progress for all sections of developmental English, reading, and math courses. The LDCC developmental faculty is dedicated to the mission of preparing students to successfully engage in college-level study using a wide range of teaching-learning practices that add educational value to each individual, and prepare students for the successful completion of college-level work and the attainment of a degree or certificate from LDCC.

A Mountaintop Experience at the Kellogg Institute

Carolyn Hitchens Smith, Ph.D.

As a proponent and practitioner of developmental education, specifically in the discipline of reading, the opportunity to attend the renowned Kellogg Institute for attainment of certification in developmental education is a dream come true. On this journey, I have learned much that I am excited about taking back to Baton Rouge Community College faculty and students!

Seminars addressed the principal components of a comprehensive developmental education program – assessment and placement. Pertinent research was used to introduce the concept of designing effective learning environments for developmental education students. The discussion of instructional design yielded exposure to the importance of learning styles, which included tools such as the Canfield Learning Styles Inventory and its components – conditions of learning, areas of interest, modes of learning, and expectations. Its value as a self-report questionnaire allows students to describe the most preferred features of their educational experiences. Further, Special Interest Groups provided participants an opportunity to network with other professionals who share a common interest in developmental education. I participated in the Integrated Reading and English Group since I will be teaching two of the aforementioned courses during fall 2009.

I encourage all developmental educators to attend the Kellogg Institute, as it is an investment that will yield dividends not only to them, but most importantly to students and ultimately, the community at large.

Close quarters have not put a damper on the LDCC spirit....

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Brighter, Full-Color Electronic Readers

Elizabeth Lee

Thinking about getting an e-reader but not sure if you like reading the dim screen? An international collaboration of the University of Cincinnati, Sun Chemical, Polymer Vision and Gamma Dynamics has announced Electrofluidic Display Technology (EFD), the first technology to electrically switch the appearance of pigments in a manner that provides visual brilliance equal to conventional printed media.

Electrofluidic Display Technology developed at the University of Cincinnati puts electronic book readers ahead by a wide margin.

Developer Jason Heikenfeld, Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering in UC's College of Engineering says, "If you compare this technology to what's been developed previously, there's no comparison."

"This takes the Amazon Kindle, for example, which is black and white, and could make it full color," according to Heikenfeld. "So now you could take it from a niche product to a mainstream product."

Visit <http://www.ece.uc.edu/devices/> for more.

Support for Students

Elizabeth Lee

In the July issue of *Campus Technology*, author David Rath in "Making It Through the First Year" focuses on college administrators who have discovered that they need more than college postings on Facebook or MySpace and more than the information found on static college websites to connect with incoming and current students.

Students flock to and like home grown web portals designed specifically for them and their needs whether they are First Time Students, Veterans, Non-Traditional, or other specialty groups. Web portals can certainly serve as a resource that assists in the transition from high school and college, but college officials are finding that a well-designed web portal is valuable to students once they are on campus. The creation and the maintenance of the web portal holds the promise of building relationships between faculty, staff, and incoming students and current college students.

In the use of web portals, students can log in to a system that personally recognizes them and targets their needs for college specific features, academic and student service supports, advising and counseling, developmental needs, even more personal issues, such as grades, campus jobs, finances, drugs, alcohol, and mental health issues, — all with interactive communication available throughout portal. At the same time colleges may want to provide discussion board opportunities between incoming and currently enrolled students. More importantly, administrators have moved away from competing with Facebook and MySpace through social networking tools. They concentrate instead on "information specific to the campus they [students] are not getting [on external sites]" (Raths 34).

To explore web portals for yourselves, go to **web/portals** solutions center for the latest news, case studies, research, features, and more: www.campustechnology.com/portals.



E-Readers promise to be even better in full color .

Web portals prove valuable to students.

FROM CRLA President Jane McGrath's Challenges and Solutions
Elizabeth Lee

When I read current CRLA President Jane McGrath's online column "Challenges and Solutions," I immediately thought that LADE members who are and are not CRLA (College Reading and Learning Association) members would also appreciate the call for action in her message. I have been a member of CRLA for most of the last twelve years and find the organization's journal and spins especially helpful, along with NADE's *Journal of Developmental Education* and NCDE's *Research in Development Education*. I hope that you can find similar value in the information she shared electronically with the membership of the organization in May 2009 in Volume XXXIII, Issue 2:

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 month's 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 personally to brainstorm and dialog and network."

From my own classroom and online experience, I find that facilitating the online class informs the effective facilitation of the traditional classroom equally, if not more, than the traditional classroom informs the online classroom. Proper professional development, course preparation and facilitation of online courses can create an acute awareness of students' needs where there has not been enough before in the traditional classroom. Imagine the effectiveness of instruction in our classrooms if faculty worked together to master these five challenges and to provide solutions throughout the curricula.

EDUCAUSE has identified 2009's top five challenges in learning with technology.



May 27, 2009

Dear Developmental Education Colleagues,

Are you seeking a research and publishing tool to support your campus's developmental educational programs? **Research in Developmental Education (RiDE)**, published by the National Center for Developmental Education four issues per volume in a single article newsletter format, is an effective tool providing supportive evidence for your programs.

Sample articles can be found at www.ncde.appstate.edu/ride/htm.

Volume 22, Issue 3, entitled "Developmental Education: A Study of Print News Reporting" by Hunter R. Boylan, Connie Carringer, D. Patrick Saxon, and Cate Shiles was also a topic for presentation at the 2009 NADE conference. This article provides information on how developmental education is viewed by the mainstream press. **RiDE** is available at the low cost of \$15.00 per year; 2-year subscriptions are \$28.00. Order forms may be found online at www.ncde.appstate.edu/order/htm.

If you are not a current NADE member, why not order the **Journal of Developmental Education (JDE)**, \$34.00 per year, \$60.00 for two years, at the same time? The **Journal of Developmental Education** is a double-blind, peer reviewed scholarly publication featuring articles that relate implications for practice from current research and regular features. Please note NADE members receive the JDE three times a year as a member benefit.

We value your support and look forward to providing you with the most current research in the field of developmental education. If you are conducting program or scholarly research and would like to submit an article to either **RiDE** or **Journal of Developmental Education**, please refer to Author's Guidelines on their respective pages at www.ncde.appstate.edu.

Sincerely,

Patrick Saxon, Editor, *Research in Developmental Education*
National Center for Developmental Education

P.S. Please indicate your chapter when ordering in the area on the order form entitled "How did you hear about the NCDE product you are ordering?"



Please note that NADE members receive the JDE three times a year as a member benefit.

In Memoriam

Elizabeth Lee

In the first eight months of 2009, we have lost three pioneers in Developmental Education: Gene Kerstiens, Martha Maxwell and William Griffin White, Jr. These three individuals touch some aspect of our daily instruction or delivery of programs and services each and every day. All three served untiringly as teacher, mentor, and friend. They wrote, researched, and published to the benefit of us all. Our personal and intellectual worlds will be smaller without these three educators of national and international standing.

Gene Kerstiens has been a leader and mentor in the field of developmental education. He was the Director of Andragogy Associates, and the co-author of the assessment tool Study Behavior Inventory. Gene served as Professor of English/Reading and Associate Dean of Instruction at El Camino College (CA); Acting Director at the National Center for Developmental Education, Appalachian State University (NC); and Director of the Learning Assistance Center, Scottsdale Community College (AZ).

In the development of resources and services of the Academic Learning Center, staff researched and purchased the Study Behavior Inventory. We have learned that production and distribution of the SBI is not likely to continue without his leadership.

Martha Maxwell established learning centers for reading and study skills programs at American University, University of Maryland, and the University of California at Berkeley. She founded the Summer Institute for Directors and Staff of College Learning Centers at Berkeley in 1976. Since retiring from Berkeley, she had written four books and served as speaker and mentor at many conferences and institutes. Two of her most valuable books for me in my efforts are *Improving Students Learning Skills* and *When Tutor Meets Student*.

I came to know her twelve years ago when I established the Academic Learning Center here at Baton Rouge Community College under the leadership of Chancellor Marion Bonaparte. At that time she was still posting on LRNASST, and when I needed resources for program development, I wrote to her asking for information. She forwarded to me electronically a copy of a bibliography that she had compiled. I used this resource and information from her to develop and to implement the programs and services of the Center. She was very helpful and always responsive to my questions.

William Griffin White, Jr. was a beloved graduate professor at Grambling University and a leader in our state and the nation in the professionalization of developmental education. I met Bill at the 1999 CRLA Conference in New Orleans. I attended a session that included him and I will always remember his efforts to recruit me for the online Graduate Developmental Education Program at Grambling. Of course, we were all reminded of his dedication each semester when he sent out the announcement of online courses and degree program in developmental education. I know the loss is especially great to his home institution and the state.

LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Benefits of LADE Membership Include

- * Newsletter - *News and Views*
- * Leadership Opportunities
- * Annual State Conference
- * Professional Networking System

To join LADE, complete the form below and mail it with a check payable to "LADE" for \$15.00 to:

Connie Rost
South Louisiana Community College
908 Ember Drive
New Iberia, Louisiana 70560

Name _____

Institution _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone () _____ Home () _____ Cell

() _____ Work () _____ Fax

Email _____

Position _____

Specialty Area _____

New Membership _____ **Renewal** _____

_____ Include my contact information in LADE Directory. _____ Do not include my contact information in LADE Directory