



## A Word from our President

Betsy Picciano

Greetings MNADE Colleagues,

As your new MNADE President, I am pleased to write my first newsletter piece. What a fantastic year 2011 has been for our MNADE Organization! There's so much to write about since the conference, so here goes...

### **MNADE Conference 2011**

Our annual fall conference was very successful once again. Here's some **Fast Facts** regarding the conference:

- 91 attendees (23% increase from 2010)
- 19 different break-out sessions
- 30 total session presenters
- Conference evaluation average rating = 4.81 (scale of 1-5)
- +40/91 completed the survey (44% return)
- Nationally recognized key-note speaker
- Good weather/beautiful autumn colors

My gratitude to all of the following people: conference attendees, session presenters, keynote speaker, MNADE board members (past & present) & webmaster, conference volunteers, staff at Ruttger's Lodge, door prize donators, and a very special thanks to our out-going MNADE President, Kathy Matel for her outstanding leadership this past year.

### **Our Former MNADE Colleagues**

On a very sad note, two of our MNADE Colleagues have passed away.

Mary Ellen Heminover, Developmental English/Reading Instructor, from South Central College, North Mankato passed away shortly after the MNADE 2011 conference. Another former MNADE Colleague, Mary Stangler, Developmental Math Instructor, from St. Cloud Technical & Community College passed away in May 2011.

Please read the tributes about these exceptional instructors in this newsletter. Tributes were written by Mary Heminover's Dean, Brian Fors and Mary Stangler's Colleague, Sharon Oliver (retired SCTC Reading Instructor/MNADE Colleague). *May our esteemed colleagues rest in peace.*

### **Dr. Stephen Brookfield**

Conference evaluation comments indicated that Dr. Brookfield was a valuable keynote speaker for our conference. If you have not had an opportunity or the time to explore Dr. Brookfield's website for teaching resources, this is a friendly to check it out: [http://www.stephenbrookfield.com/Dr. Stephen D. Brookfield/Workshop\\_Materials.html](http://www.stephenbrookfield.com/Dr._Stephen_D._Brookfield/Workshop_Materials.html)

I'd also recommend checking out Dr. Brookfield's book: *The Skillful Teacher*. This book has been a very good teaching guide for me for many years. I suggest that you make sure to read Chapter 2 "The Core Assumptions of Skillful Teaching." These core assumptions can be very thought-invoking.

### **MNADE Spring Meetings**

In early spring, MNADE members will gather regionally to connect again. In the past, these meetings take all sorts of shape—whether it is shaped by a theme or topic, sharing best practices, critiquing books or research—members love this once-a-year happening! Stay tuned for more news on these events through the MNADE Listserv, emails, and website postings. Check previous spring newsletters to get a flavor for what all the fun is about: <http://www.mnade.org/communication.html>

We are seeking volunteers from each of the three regions to assist with the planning, organization, and implementation of the spring meeting. If you are interested in volunteering a little time, please contact the following Regional MNADE Coordinator:

- Northern Regional Coordinator: Cari Kenner, SCSU, [cmkenner@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:cmkenner@stcloudstate.edu)
- Metro Regional Coordinator: Laura McCartan, MSU, [Laura.McCartan@metrostate.edu](mailto:Laura.McCartan@metrostate.edu)
- Southern Regional Coordinator: Rae Gravenish, RCTC, [rae.gravenish@roch.edu](mailto:rae.gravenish@roch.edu)

### Inside this issue:

Letter from President Betsy Picciano	1-2
PsTL Lecture Series Jeanne Higbee	2
Remembering Mary Strangler	3
Remembering Mary Heminover	4

## Letter from the President cont'd

Betsy Picciano

### **MNADE Board**

Here is the link to your 2011-2012 MNADE Board Members: <http://www.mnade.org/board.html>  
Make sure to contact any us—because we are always looking for your input, feedback, and mostly your suggestions or ideas for the organization.

### **MNADE 2012 Membership**

Membership dues are \$15.00 annually. Membership calendar year runs January to December. If you attended the conference, you more than likely have paid your 2012 dues.

Membership forms with detailed information/instructions are available on our website: <http://www.mnade.org/MNADE%20Membership%20Form%202012.pdf>

Have a fantastic end of the fall semester. Enjoy the various holidays coming up. Do make sure to devote a little “me” time to thyself frequently.

I am happy to be serving as your MNADE President.

With warm regards,

Betsy Picciano

## PsTL Research Series

Jeanne Higbee

“An Introduction to Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning (POGIL) ”

By Murray Jensen (Associate Professor) & Allison Mattheis (Graduate Research Assistant)

**November 10, 2011**

**227 Burton Hall**

**3:30pm-5:00pm**

Murray Jensen received a National Science Foundation grant to support efforts to improve undergraduate anatomy and physiology courses through the use of Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning (POGIL). POGIL is a teaching and learning philosophy that emphasizes cooperative group learning, student-centered instruction, and inquiry-based approaches. It is based on a learning cycle through which students explore content, construct understanding, and apply acquired knowledge. This research presentation will provide an overview of the grant with a focus on the evaluation portion of the project, which includes instructor interviews, classroom observations, and student feedback to gauge the impact of the POGIL approach.

Visit us at [www.cehd.umn.edu/PSTL](http://www.cehd.umn.edu/PSTL)

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## Mini-Grant Program

Mini-Grant program is sponsored by the Minnesota Association for Developmental Education.

Details at <http://www.mnade.org>

## Remembering Mary Strangler

Mary Stangler, 59, died May 15, 2011 from an aggressive form of cancer. She loved to spend cabin time with her family and to travel, but her math books were always packed first as she was dedicated to her profession. She began as “special needs” instructor in the technical system long before the statewide MnSCU system.

For 37 years at St. Cloud Technical and Community College, Mary was an exceptional teacher and a credit to developmental education. Mary was unselfish, had sound principles, and was respectful of others, their ideas and opinions. She had the patience, the endurance and selflessness for every student. She had the ability to let students know they could do math and like it! She was never satisfied and constantly worked to improve her teaching strategies and to enhance the students’ classroom experiences. Mary as a member of MNADE attended state conferences, and she was awarded the MinnMATYC Distinguished Teaching Award this past year.

Students filled her classes and sensed that Mary genuinely cared about them as individuals. She was not easily flustered, so she listened to an individual situation without taking ownership of the student’s problem, and in many instances she just allowed a student to speak without any inhibitions. Mary adjusted quickly to student needs, maintained high standards, expected and nudged students to strive beyond the minimum work required. She managed to make a complex mathematical process simple for students to understand, but did not “talk down” as she used the proper terminology of the course. She assisted students in developing their skills, and encouraged them to reach their greatest potential. She praised students as they became responsible for their own learning.

One of Mary’s strongest traits was her technological awareness. She constantly evaluated technology for use with students in her search for innovative mathematical materials and effective teaching methods. She wanted to have personal experience for how it might work before blindly integrating it into the curriculum. She challenged herself to be knowledgeable and proficient with each course’s mathematical needs so her students in more basic courses were prepared to succeed at the next level.

Mary was highly respected at the college for her dedication to the students and her strength of teaching. On September 16, 2011 St. Cloud Technical and Community College honored Mary by renaming the learning center in her honor. It is now the Mary E. Stangler Center for Academic Success.



January 7, 1952—May 15, 2011



## Remembering Mary Heminover

### Dean's Comments: Mary Heminover

Long time instructor Mary Heminover passed away yesterday, a tremendous loss to the college, and loss to students. As an instructor, Mary strongly felt that all students could be successful at college, and through college, successful in life. If the students did not quite see the path to improvement and success like she did, they were wrong, she was right, and resistance to her will would only slow down the process.

Few in the academic world, even at community colleges, believe all students can be successful. Community colleges are the most democratic institutions in the higher education system, yet few instructors, administrators, even student affairs staff (the most vociferous student advocates in the colleges other than Mary) would agree with Mary's worldview.

Listening to her sometimes, no one would suspect she believed in every student that walked through the doors at South Central College. She could often be heard giving some student a verbal "kick in the butt." She would complain about their lack of readiness for college work and the frustrating struggle to get them ready.

I often reminded her that not everyone can be saved. She often looked at me, nodded as if in agreement, and then stated her plan to save everyone. I told her students need to want to succeed, and she told me students didn't know what they wanted but she would tell them.

I worked with Mary for four years and she often took the same approach to me as she did to her students. When she served as division chair she pointed out the things she thought I was doing well as a new dean. Before I could thank her, and before I had the opportunity to let the compliment inflate my confidence, she listed the actions I needed to take to do a better job.

She would say I needed to focus on the welfare of students, and put aside all the other matters she considered ephemeral in their importance, like budgets, contracts, processes, and policies.

After all, there are too many students to save.



Aug. 12, 1947—Oct. 6, 2011