

MNADE NEWSLETTER

Late Spring 2006

A Word from our President

--Kathy Wellington

Greetings to all in these final days of spring semester. I want to pass along a few updates and reminders before the academic year wraps up.

Many of you attended one of our three overwhelmingly successful first annual regional meetings in early April, details of which are summarized elsewhere in the Newsletter. From all accounts, participants are already looking forward to next year's meetings to which we hope even more of you will be able to come.

By **June 1st**, please be sure to submit program proposals along with presenter biographies for the annual MNADE conference. Check the next article for details about the upcoming September 28-29th conference to be held at Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge, Grand Rapids. We look forward to exploring the many facets of our ever-changing student population through sessions and informal discussion around the theme of, "Finding the Pulse: Reading the Student."

Best wishes for the warm summer days ahead, which will hopefully include abundant recreation.



**Minnesota Association for
Developmental Education
Thirteenth Annual Conference
September 28-29, 2006
Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge
Grand Rapids, Minnesota**

Finding the Pulse: Reading the Student

CALL FOR PROGRAM PROPOSALS

The Executive Board of MNADE invites proposals for one-hour sessions on the multitude of issues surrounding the continuation of courses, programs, and support services targeting student success in college. This year's conference theme, "Finding the Pulse: Reading the Student," offers the opportunity to explore the many dimensions of our increasingly diverse students and the challenges they face in our institutions. Who are our students who lack the requisite reading, writing, math, study and language competencies to succeed? What effect do struggling students have on faculty, curriculum, budgets and services? How can we use our insights to better address individual learning needs? A panel of experienced, knowledgeable administrators representing the diverse perspectives of the technical and community colleges as well as the state universities will begin our exploration.

We look forward to updating our understanding of relevant research, of effective practices, policies and early intervention initiatives which target the increasingly diverse student populations we serve. We encourage you and your colleagues to propose a session for this "year-of -the-student" conference.

MNADE NEWSLETTER

Late Spring 2006

Proposals should include names of presenters, a primary contact person (including phone, address, and e-mail), session title, a brief description of the proposed presentation (250 words maximum), and short two-three sentence presenter biographies suitable for submission in the conference program. Please indicate your audiovisual needs; overhead projectors will be available, and other equipment may be arranged or rented.

Send to:
Mary Thurow, MNADE President-Elect
mary.thurow@minneapolis.edu
2435-34th Ave S.
Minneapolis, MN 55406-1426

Due date: June 1, 2006



Spring Regional Meetings

North Region, Vicky Williams, St. Cloud State University

On April 7, 13 of us from the MNADE Northern Region met at Bennigan's in Moorhead, MN for good food and lively conversation. We had representation from St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud Technical College, Central Lakes College, Minnesota State University-Moorhead, the University of North Dakota, and North Dakota State University. An excellent turnout, we all agreed. It was good to get together in an informal setting and catch up on current projects and ideas, *most* of which had something to do with developmental education. Among the highlights, Barb Rath asked if anyone had experience with *Smart-Thinking*, and she happened to be sitting next to Val Becker, who not

only had experience with that program, but is the person at UND responsible for monitoring its use. So now we all know how UND is using the program and how much they feel it benefits their students. Jan Bedard talked about her sabbatical project for next year involving brain research and instruction, which fit in well with my informal after dinner talk in which I shared information from Janet Zadina's NADE Pre-Conference Institute on Brain Research and Instruction. We all agreed that a spring gathering was a good idea, though Moorhead might not be the best spring location. It is true, however, that the Red River at 35 ft. is a spectacular sight indeed!

Metro Region, Patty Wheeler Andrews, Anoka Ramsey Community College

The Central Regional Meeting of MNADE was held on Thursday evening, April 6, in the back room at Muffuletta, a St. Paul restaurant. Despite a thunderous spring storm, the eighteen members in attendance enjoyed a delicious dinner and stimulating conversation with their colleagues from the greater metropolitan region. We met in three rotating groups to discuss books that appeal, articles that have recently captured our interest, and classroom (or learning center) strategies that have proven effective. Several members received door prizes for first to arrive, largest group from one institution, newest member, and farthest travel to attend. We shared an evening of connection, laughter, and common concerns. Plan to join us next April for our second annual regional meeting.

South Region, Gael Mericle, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Over 30 individuals from the southern region of MNSCU schools attended the

MNADE NEWSLETTER

Late Spring 2006

April 7th gathering at Minnesota State University Mankato. Round table discussions were held on a variety of topics ranging from Academic Support Services, Tutor training, Academic Advising, Disability Services, ESL and ELL programs, to types of Technology being used in support centers. The opportunity to visit with colleagues having similar interests and concerns in a non-agenda driven environment was met with enthusiasm by those in attendance. The comments heard in the hallways and in the meetings centered on the need to do this more often. Thanks, MNADE for giving us this opportunity.



Members will receive other conference details from the listserv. For more MNADE information, visit our website at www.mnade.org. For information about Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge, go to www.sugarlakelodge.com.

Nominations for MNADE Officers

This summer and fall we will be taking nominations for President-Elect and Treasurer. We'll elect those two positions at our fall conference.

The President Elect shall serve as chairperson of the Conference Planning Committee, assume the chair of the Executive Committee in the absence of the President, and serve as MNADE president for the following year.

The Treasurer shall monitor the association budget, provide a quarterly report on income and expenditures to the Executive Committee, maintain all financial records, issue all checks and purchase orders (with written authorization by the President), prepare an annual Financial Statement for the membership and conduct all other necessary financial activities of the organization. The Treasurer shall be bonded.

If you would like to nominate yourself or a colleague, please send names to Patty Wheeler Andrews at Patty.Wheeler-Andrews@anokaramsey.edu.

MNADE Listserv

Do you want to communicate more regularly with your colleagues across the state? We do! MNADE has a Listserv that provides an easy way to ask a question, share your ideas, and stay current in the developmental education activities in our region.

To join the listserv, simply follow these instructions. Send an email to LISTSERV@tc.umn.edu. Leave the subject line blank and turn off the signature if you use one. In the message type SUB MN-NADE FIRSTNAME LASTNAME.

To unsubscribe, send a message to the same address, and type the message: signoff MN-NADE.

To post a message, use this email address: MN-NADE@umn.edu. Remember when you reply to a listserv message, you are replying to the entire group. If you only want to reply to the person who posted, be sure to send an

email directly to him or her, rather than using “reply.”

That’s it! We’ll look for you on the Listserv!

Book Review

Dana Lundell, Director, Center for Research on Developmental Education and Urban Literacy, University of Minnesota

Access, Opportunity, and Success: Keeping the Promise of Higher Education

Martha E. Casazza and Laura Bauer
Praeger, 2006, Westport, CT

In a field as dynamic and controversial as developmental education, there are many perspectives about students, institutions, and the role of these programs in higher education. The history of providing access to students and the promise of opportunity in higher education is as established as the legacy of Harvard where the first inroads were made for students from nontraditional backgrounds to attend programs originally dedicated to the wealthy social classes. Tutoring programs were set up to support students at that time, and from then on, a history of legislative initiatives such as the First and Second Morrill Acts in the late 1800s began to formalize this concept in higher education—essentially to promise equal access and opportunity. Developmental education embraces this vision of access and opportunity for students.

To explore this historical issue from a more personal standpoint, qualitative researchers and leaders in the field, Martha Casazza and Laura Bauer from National Louis University, conducted numerous personal interviews to create an oral history of the field that is

centrally dedicated to providing educational opportunities for all students. Many professionals in developmental education, tutoring, and learning assistance have intensely personal accounts of their own educational backgrounds, their development of a commitment to diversity and multiculturalism, and reasons they persist and thrive in a field that frequently seems to be under attack.

In the heart of the book, the voices of the educators are presented together as if in a real conversation about the themes. The opening of the book includes a brief and accessible history of the field, and the conclusion offers recommendations for the future of access in higher education. Through the interview process, Casazza and Bauer found that a strong belief in students and their ability to succeed is the driving force among those who inhabit this field. Educators also have plenty to say about programs and practices to support students in their quest for success. Underlying the tapestry of these conversations is the essential principle of individuals working toward equity in a socially uneven world.

Overall, this book is highly readable and honors the diverse standpoints of professionals in this field who devote their lives to students and their learning. It is a highly unique book in the way Casazza and Bauer bring forth real voices in a conversation that brings these issues into the foreground at a time when support programs and motivated students continue to be sidelined in the face of this nation’s educational promise.

MNADE NEWSLETTER

Late Spring 2006



Summer Reading?

Looking for some good books to read over the summer? Here are some suggestions from your friends on the MNADE executive board.

Academic-type books:

The Case of the Missing Professor: An Academic Mystery by Thomas B. Jones

Race and Higher Education: Rethinking Pedagogy in Diverse College Classrooms, Edited by Annie Howell and Frank Tuitt

Secrets of the Teenage Brain: Research-Based Strategies for Reaching and Teaching Today's Adolescents, by Sheryl Feinstein

Engaging the Online Learner: Activities and Resources for Creative Instruction, by Rita-Marie Conrad and J. Ana Donaldson

Other Reading:

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime, by Mark Haddon

The Time Traveler's Wife, By Audrey Niffenegger

The Tipping Point AND *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*, by Malcolm Gladwell

The Tenth Circle, by Jodi Picoult

We Are All Welcome Here, by Elizabeth Berg

These Granite Islands, by Sarah Stonich

The Known World by Edward Jones

Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder

Dreams of My Father by Barack O'Bama

The Working Poor by David Shipler

Have a great read!

