



A word from our President

Nancy Patton

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

Yes, YOU. If you are reading this newsletter and you are a member of MNADE then you have a vested interest in this association and us in you. We are continually increasing our membership and expanding the scope of our annual conference, plus working diligently to bring smaller regions together at the midpoint between annual conferences. This increased presence is good and necessary, but it takes more hands than the few on the Executive Board who have been doing it all. We're not just asking for help, were asking for guidance. If more step up to serve on committees, then we can meet the needs and wishes of many and not just those serving as officers or in leadership.

YES. You can get involved in 2 ways.

1) Place your name forward to me at the email address below and indicate your interest in serving on the Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee: The committee shall consist of the immediate past President, President, two at-large members chosen by the President and two at-large members chosen by the other Executive Committee members. The chair of the committee shall be appointed by the President. This committee shall serve as the collection and certification of the election body for all balloting. — Article 5, A. 1. Bylaws

OR

2) Place your name forward to me at the email address below and indicate your interest in serving on the Program Committee.

Program Committee: The committee shall be responsible for planning the annual conference and any other programs deemed necessary by the Executive Committee. — Article 5, A. 4. Bylaws

Either choice for involvement will give you an opportunity for leadership and an opportunity to work with the board or representatives from the board. For Nominating we need representation from all areas of the state and for Program Committee the tasks and sub-committee opportunities are numerous. The Nominating Committee is able to work effectively by telecommunicating and the Program Committee has the opportunity for you to specialize in site choices, speaker selections, recruiting presenters, and orchestrating the conference. Both are a great opportunity to get to know others in the association and both are good ways to build your professional resume and your professional development plan.

I do hope to hear from many of you. I will not turn away any who step up and lend their time and their expertise. If you want to contribute, we'll find a way to make the commitment manageable. The more who lend a hand the lighter the task!

FLOOD MY EMAIL. nancy.patton@minneapolis.edu

Nancy Patton, President

If you're not actively involved in getting what you want, you don't really want it.

Peter McWilliams

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Book Review

Linda Russell

Brain Rules: Twelve Principles for Surviving and Thriving at Work, Home, and School

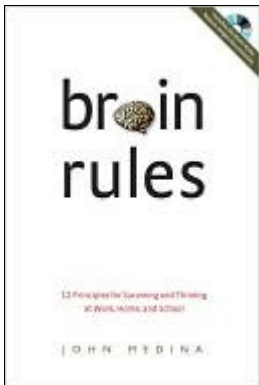
Did you know that the brain actually cannot multitask? Nope, not at all. So, put down that cell phone and listen to this! Although you may be able to walk and chew gum at the same time, you cannot process two things simultaneously that demand attention. For example, drivers who talk on their cell phones take half a second longer to step on their brakes in an emergency. At 70 miles per hour, that means traveling 51 more feet—which could certainly make the difference between a crash and a near miss (p. 87). Now, do I have your attention?

Written by Dr. John Medina, a developmental molecular biologist, *Brain Rules* is a very readable, interesting book which identifies twelve “rules” about how our brains work. From “Exercise boost brain power” to “Sleep well, think well” to “Vision trumps all other senses,” *Brain Rules* explains what science tells us about how brains work and offers specific ideas for living better with our brains at work, home, and in school. Dr. Medina ends each chapter with a “What if” section in which he imagines how things might be if we actually set up our work environments, our schools, and our families with the brain principles in mind.

What makes this book fun to read is that Medina actually writes in a brain friendly style. His humor, his personal examples, and his everyday language make this book accessible to non-scientists. In fact, his intended audience includes teachers, parents and business managers.

Included with the book is a DVD of short videos of Dr. Medina discussing each principle. He follows his own advice in the videos in terms of making them short, engaging, and provocative. I’m planning to use a couple of them with my reading class this semester. I’m leaning toward the ones on stress and sleep. You can watch videos and learn more about the book at www.brainrules.net.

Written by:
Dr. John Medina



CRLA Conference

Linda Russell

College Reading and Learning Association Conference: MN, ND, SD Region Report

The Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota region was well represented at the fall CRLA conference in Cleveland, Ohio. Vicky Williams of St. Cloud State University has agreed to become the director for our region. She will wear two hats, as she is also the president-elect of MNADE for 2008-9. Pictured below are (l to r) Gayle Jentz (North Hennepin CC), Deborah Biorn (St. Cloud State), Johnine Ornelas (Minneapolis), Vicky Williams and Gretchen Starks Martin (St. Cloud State). (Not pictured, Lori Engel and Linda Russell (Minneapolis).



Mini Grants Approved

Nancy Patton

The Executive Board approved requests for 2 mini-grants at their last meeting. Deborah Biorn and Wayne Braith from Saint Cloud State University will be using the funds to develop an online math refresher course for students entering developmental math courses. We look forward to hearing more about this project once they have developed and used the program. The second grant went to a group of 5 faculty from the English department at MCTC: Jane Leach, Kathleen Devore, Phil Martin, Morgan Grayce Willow, and Lida Jane Strot. They are building upon a presentation they did at the MNADE 2007 Conference and will be planning and facilitating a hands-on workshop at Normandale Community College on using portfolios as exit criteria for developmental English. They hope to spread this belief in and commitment to portfolio curriculum to other campuses, as well. Best wishes to both groups on their respective endeavors.

If you are interested in applying for a MNADE mini-grant, application forms are available on the MNADE website. **The next deadline for applications is April 1, 2009.**

Fall Conference 2009

The Sixteenth Annual Conference is in its initial planning stages but the critical details are set.

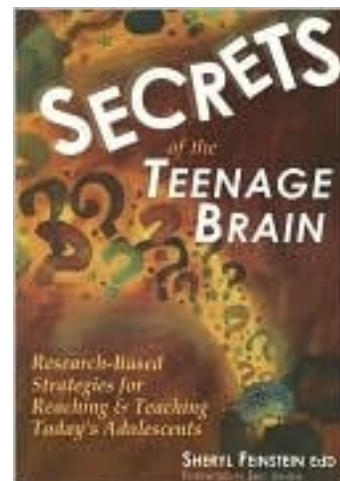
Dates: Thursday, September 24th - Friday, September 25th

Location: The Kahler Grand Hotel, Rochester, MN

“Featuring affordable guest rooms and lovely meeting spaces, as well as, a fitness center, domed recreation area, Healing Touch Salon, complimentary shuttle service, and convenience to nearby shops and boutiques.”

Keynote Speaker: Sheryl Feinstein, Ed.D, Associate Professor, Augustana College

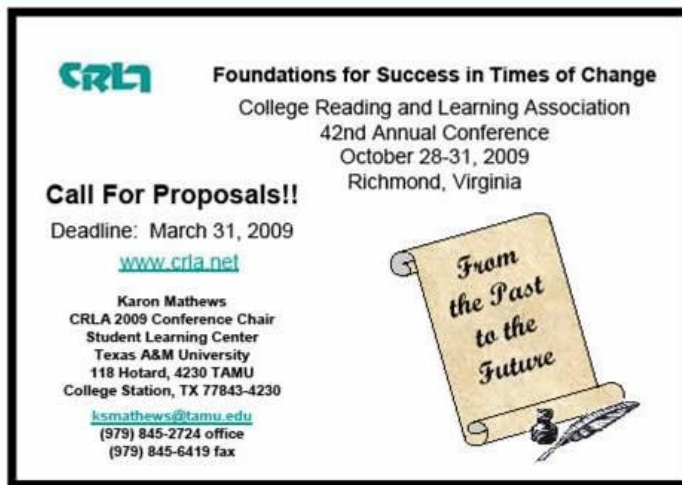
Sheryl is the author of the book, *Secrets of the Teenage Brain: Research-Based Strategies for Reaching & Teaching Today's Adolescents* (2004). She is also the editor and co-author of *The Praeger Handbook of Learning and the Brain: Two Volumes* (2006), and authored *Parenting the Teenage Brain: Understanding a Work in Progress*, *Teaching the At-Risk Teenage Brain*, and, *Learning and the Brain: A Comprehensive Guide for Educators, Parents, and Teachers* (2007). She has recently completed a Fulbright Scholarship to Tanzania and consults at a correctional facility for adolescent boys and at a separate site for Emotionally/Behaviorally Disturbed (EBD) adolescents in Minnesota. Her speaking vita is extensive, including many international presentations.



CRLA In Richmond

Gretchen Starks-Martin

Plans are already beginning for next year's College Reading and Learning Association conference, to be held in Richmond, Virginia on October 28-31, 2009. The theme will be "From the Past to the Future: Foundations for Success in Times of Change" and proposals are due by March 31st. **Please think about submitting a proposal!** Access the Website www.crla.net and click on the conference tab to submit your proposal online.



The poster features the CRLA logo in green and blue. The text reads: "Foundations for Success in Times of Change", "College Reading and Learning Association", "42nd Annual Conference", "October 28-31, 2009", "Richmond, Virginia". Below this, it says "Call For Proposals!!" and "Deadline: March 31, 2009". A website link www.crla.net is provided. Contact information for Karon Mathews is listed: "Karon Mathews, CRLA 2009 Conference Chair, Student Learning Center, Texas A&M University, 118 Hotard, 4230 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4230". An email address ksmathews@tamu.edu and phone/fax numbers (979) 845-2724 office and (979) 845-6419 fax are also included. On the right side of the poster is an illustration of a scroll with the text "From the Past to the Future" written on it, and a quill pen resting on the scroll.



MNADE Listserv

Melissa O'Connor

Melissa O'Connor manages the MNADE Listserv. If you would like to join, please e-mail her directly.

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