



The Latehomecomer:
A Hmong Family Memoir
By Kao Kalia Yang

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A Word from our President

Victoria Williams

The first essay students write in the Power Reading course we offer at St. Cloud State asks them to describe their early experiences with reading and consider how those experience have impacted their current attitudes toward reading. I'm sure many of you reading this have similar assignments and are probably used to the common theme that often runs through these essays: Reading was fun at first and when they got to choose what they read, but about middle school teachers started assigning novels and, oh my and double groan, textbooks! They were so boring!! Now, I know they don't mean that everything was boring. It's the word they used to describe such things to their friends and that's what sticks in their minds. And many of those attitudes stem from bad experiences. But it's what they write over and over again.

More and more, though, I'm reading essays about a very different experience with reading. I read stories of learning to write letters with a stick in the dirt under the tree that served as a classroom. I read about the struggles to learn yet another language as families moved from country to country, looking for safety and sustenance. When families move from place to place out of fear and necessity, the last thing on anyone's mind is teaching the children to read. And yet I have students who write of how they treasured the magazines and books that did fall their way, and how they insisted on learning to read when it wasn't a priority for those around them.

Because these stories are becoming more frequent in our college classrooms, the theme of next fall's conference will be on the immigrant student experience. We have a keynote speaker! Kao Kalia Yang, Hmong writer and author of *The Latehomecomer*, has agreed to give our keynote address. We have a speaker and a location, beautiful Sugar Lake Lodge in Grand Rapids, but what we need is more input from you, MNADE members. If you are interested in helping plan this conference, please let me know. The Board would be only too happy to put you to work.

Victoria Williams, MNADE President
vlwilliams@stcloudstate.edu

Twitter?

Nancy Patton

We were recently asked by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for permission to copy and distribute our College Readiness Brochure with modifications. The answer was an emphatic "yes", and they will be acknowledging MNADE on their front page. The person who initialized this request was Karen A. DeCoster. She would like to form a Twitter group on the topic of college readiness and invites all of you who tweet to look her up by name.

Happy Tweeting!

CRLA

Victoria Williams

Beginning with an inspiring keynote address by Constance Staley and ending with a tour of Colonial Williamsburg, CRLA's 42nd Annual Conference in Richmond, Virginia, offered ample opportunity for professional enrichment and connection with colleagues and history. MNADE member Deborah Biorn gave a presentation on the Voluntary Online Refresher Math 072 course being developed for the Math Skills Center at St. Cloud State, and Victoria Williams and Cari Kenner presented, "Teaching Active Reading Using Phases of Engagement." Two MNADE members also serve on CRLA's board; Linda Russell is secretary, and Gretchen Starks-Martin is Executive Assistant.



Regional members at the CRLA 2009 Conference

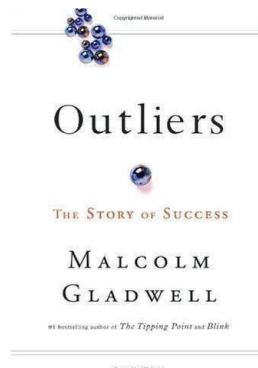
Left to right: Sherry Dilley, Linda Russell, Vicky Williams, Deborah Biorn, Nancy Mills, Laurel Watt, Jeanne Higbee, John Heinrichs, Cari Kenner

The website for next year's conference, November 3-6, 2010 in Salt Lake City is now online, <http://crla.net/conference/index.htm>, and institute and session proposals are now being accepted. The online proposal form can be accessed from the "Call for Proposals" link on the Conference Index page listed above or directly at http://crla.net/conference/2010_Online_Proposal_Form.htm.

**43rd Annual
CRLA Conference
November 3-6, 2010
Salt Lake City**

Outliers: The Story of Success by Malcolm Gladwell

The 2010 CRLA Conference in Salt Lake City is titled, **One Book—One Conference.**



Outliers is chock full of ideas and information pertinent to educators, to those interested in helping others be successful, to those working on their own success story, and to readers who enjoy a well-written book with interesting stories. Join other conference participants in several opportunities to discuss the book including a formal concurrent session and informally in the hospitality room. Check the conference program when you arrive in Salt Lake for times and location. For more information, contact Arden Hamer at Arden.Hamer@iup.edu.

Mini Grant Program

Due: April 1, 2010

Statement of Purpose: The Minnesota Association for Developmental Education promotes professional development in practice and research to improve college readiness and student learning through innovations in the field of developmental education.

The Mini-Grants program awards grants of up to \$500 to current MNADE members who are faculty and staff of regional (Minnesota) colleges, schools, universities, departments, programs, and centers in support of teaching and research in developmental education.

Criteria: Proposals will be judged primarily on their relevance to developmental education and their level of innovation and potential to make a direct impact.

Date Due: December 1, or April 1, before 4:30 p.m. of each academic year. Application form and guidelines can be accessed at <http://www.mnade.org>

Process: Applicants should answer the application questions in two pages or less. Applicants receiving mini-grants in this round will be notified via email within a month of application after the Board meets to review proposals.

The Mini-Grant program is sponsored by the Minnesota Association for Developmental Education. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the current MNADE President. (Details at <http://www.mnade.org>)

Scholarships and Awards

Leta Tyhurst

The College Reading and Learning Association is offering scholarships and awards again this year (2010) to its members for attending an intensive workshop such as Kellogg or TIDE or for pursuing graduate study or for doing research on a relevant subject. A Cengage travel award is also available for attending the CRLA Conference, and nominations for special awards can be made. Go to the website at CRLA.net and click on scholarships and awards.

If you have any questions, please contact Gretchen Starks-Martin or Leta Tyhurst know.

Leta Tyhurst

Chair, CRLA Scholarships & Awards
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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>



MNADE Listserv

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

Melissa.oconnor@minneapolis.edu

Spring Regional Meetings

Nancy Patton

Northern Area

Host: Cari Kenner
Date: Friday, April 9, 2010
Location: RJ's
Time: 5:00 pm

For further info contact Cari:
cmkenner@stcloudstate.edu

Metro Area

Host: Ann Ludlow
Date: Thursday, April 8, 2010
Location: Muffuletta's
2260 Como Avenue
St. Paul., MN
Time: 5:00pm

For further info contact Ann:
Ann.Ludlow@minneapolis.edu

Southern Area

Host: Rae Gravenish
Date: TBA
Location: TBA
Time: TBA

For further info contact Rae:
Rae.Gravenish@roch.edu