



The Educator's Newsletter

FALL 2009

Alabama Association for
Developmental Education

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Words from the President

A 2006 *Boston Globe* article decries the large percentage of college students who are unable to handle complex but common reading tasks such as interpreting a table about exercise and blood pressure, understanding the arguments of newspaper editorials, comparing credit card offers with different interest rates and annual fees, or summarizing results of a survey about parental involvement in school. While the article referenced a study that was conducted among college students nearing graduation, those of us “in the trenches” know that the underlying problem is the result of students arriving on college campuses underprepared for reading college-level texts. Many of our students lack the strategies for academic reading and are unable to *read to learn effectively*. They often read passively and aimlessly, without purpose, and failing to “remember” what was read, often become frustrated and stop reading altogether. While students enrolled in developmental reading courses are taught strategies for understanding texts, these same skills are not always transferred and applied to other disciplines, specifically to writing and mathematics.

As many two-year and four-year colleges and universities enroll unprepared and underprepared students, the need for what we do as developmental educators is crucial as we seek and create new methods and strategies for serving these students.

This is why the annual conference of ALADE is so important to what we do. It serves as a venue for those with common concerns and common goals to share diverse ideas and best practices.

Join us in November. Come see old friends. Come make new friends.

Lynda Humphrey
ALADE President for 2008-2009

ALADE President-elect attends ALAPCAEC Conference

“Not only do we want to see our students receive their GEDs, but we want them to expand their education through the two-year college system.”

The ALAPCAE (ADULT EDUCATION) Conference was held July 15-17, 2009, at the Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center at Birmingham, Alabama. The theme was “*Adult Education: Bridging the Gap.*” Joe Cavender, President, said, “ALAPCAE is dedicated to promoting continuing education for adults in our communities. Not only do we want to see our students receive their GEDs, but we want them to expand their education through the two-year college system.” (*Of course, this is where transitional education begins with those students who still need skill building courses, so they will be successful at the post secondary level.*)

This conference was very organized and provided presentations ranging from general Adult Education (AE) topics (testing and policies) to workshops based on pedagogical strategies. One major focus for AE, according to Joe Cavender, President, “is to equip our teachers with the knowledge and techniques that have been proven to be successful.

There were 670 enthusiastic attendees who seemed excited about attending the conference.

At registration, attendees were given the conference booklet as well as a black leather satchel for conference items as well as personal items, so the attendees walked around with their black satchels.

On the other hand, one of the keynote speakers was John F. Croyle who is the founder and executive director of Big Oak Boys’ Ranch and Big Oak Girls’ Ranch; he delivered an inspirational and motivational speech about his girls and boys at the two ranches. He brought the attendees to laughter as well as to tears. Also, he emphasized how important educators are to the students they serve.

My purpose in attending the ALAPCAE Conference was to attend presentations and workshops that focused on the adult learner. Having been a part-time AE teacher for ten years, I was aware that these presentations were part of the conference, and I was not disappointed. The first one that I attended was conducted by Dr. Ron Russell who talked about diversity in the adult student. For example, they learn differently (learning styles), have different life experiences, and sometimes, act differently, so educators must be aware of students’ needs and provide the proper tools to assist them.

Dr. Russell brought forth an impressive presentation about how important learning style diagnosis is to the student’s academic success; additionally, he talked about ADD & ADHD, and its effect on student success. All this information was informative and extremely valuable to an educator.

On the other hand, several presentations focused on curriculum, such as math & English. These were very informative and could be considered *Best Practices* because the workshops were structured for the active learner. They provided collaborative learning activities to engage active learners; consequently, there were no passive learners in these workshops. An attendee could not be passively sitting without contributing to the class, either in a group situation or in discussion. These activities also accommodated the differing learning styles of students (visual, auditory or kinesthetic).

In addition, some presenters provided CDs of their workshops to be shared on the attendees’ home campuses. All the presentations were well worth this attendees’ time and effort.. Likewise, vendor booths were well stocked with products. The representatives were enthusiastic and brought with them up-to-date products, such as the newest software, newest book editions, and lovely jewelry.

Finally, the food provided was really extraordinary: Breakfast was provided each morning, so attendees feasted on full breakfast buffets. Then the luncheon (a full course meal with cheesecake *to die for*) was scrumptious! Overall, I believe that when the surveys are collected, the ALAPCAE Conference will be deemed an overwhelming success by attendees! The committee did an outstanding job organizing the conference.

Shirley Buttram
ALADE President-elect

A Call to Conference



The Legends
at Capitol Hill
Site of the 2009
ALADE
Conference

The Alabama Association for Developmental Education is inviting everyone who would benefit from Developmental Education professional staff development to attend the ALADE conference, November 11-13, 2009, at the Marriott at Capitol Hill (The Legends at Prattville, Alabama, with the Robert Trent

Jones Golf Course right in the backyard.

There will be a host of informative speakers and presenters who will provide workshops and presentations for attendees to take back to their home campuses. They will range from a presentation on Learning Styles to *Best Practices* in teaching methodology such as reading, writing, and mathematics. Presentations will provide excellent professional development for educators working in the field of developmental education.

In this *Changing Face: No One To Waste in*

Sweet Home Alabama Conference, attendees and administrators will be as excited as the conference planners that they participated in this important conference: We really do not have anyone to waste. Let's learn how to retain and teach these students at the ALADE conference this year. You are cordially invited to join us, and you will be glad that you did.

Note : Adjuncts' conference fee will be \$50.00.

POINTS OF INTEREST FOR ATTENDEES

There are also many interesting places to visit while you are at Prattville, Alabama, which are as follows:

- The Mistletoe Market
- Visit Historic Prattville, Birthplace of Industry and experience New England in the South
- Fanci Free – collection of shops under one roof
- Carol Brooks Home and Holiday Shop – visit the Christmas Loft
- The Turtle Shell – Features unique educational games and supplies
- Turtle Too – dancewear, accessories, baby cloths, and gifts
- The Village Clocksmith
- Robert Trent Jones Golf
- AND many other sites & sounds



DOWNTOWN SPILLWAY AT
COTTON GIN FACTORY

Tips and Ideas

Do you have a great instructional idea or teaching tip? Would you like to share it with other instructors? Please forward your great ideas, teaching tips, and articles to sfrye@ascc.edu.

Benefits of Membership

Opportunities to become acquainted with

- Cooperative learning and collective activities
- Roles of administrators and supervisors in developmental education
- Research and review in any academic discipline
- Computer technology in the learning environment
- Innovative study skills models

Other innovative strategies and models in an academic discipline

Connections with other developmental educators in the state.

Participation in the annual ALADE conference

Access to information regarding the latest legislative developments in education

ALADE EXECUTIVE BOARD 2008-09

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Conference Events

TENTATIVE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, November 11, 2009

6:00-8:00PM **Executive Board Meeting**

Thursday, November 12, 2009

7:30-11:30AM **Registration**
8:00AM **Opening Ceremony of Exhibits**
 Opening Sessions

Joyce Brasfield Adams
NADE President-elect

9:45 – 10:45AM **Concurrent Sessions**
11:00-12:00PM **Concurrent Sessions**
12:00-1:45PM **Luncheon**

(Panel Discussion)

2:00-4:00PM **Registration**
2:00-3:00PM **Concurrent Sessions**
3:15-5:00PM **SPINS**

Friday, November 13, 2009

8:00AM **Registration**
8:00AM-11:00AM **Exhibits**
8:30AM-9:30AM **Committee Meetings**
9:45AM-10:45AM **Concurrent Sessions**
11:00AM-12:30PM **BRUNCH/Business Meeting**
 NACC Ensemble
12:45-1:45PM **Executive Board Meeting**

ALADE Membership Application**One-year membership fee is \$15.00.****Please make checks payable to ALADE:****Print this form and mail to:**

**Melinda Byrd-Murphy
Alabama Southern Comm. College
P.O. Box 2000
Monroeville, AL 36460**

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| Name: |
| Institution: |
| Institution Address: |
| City: |
| State: |
| Zip code: |
| Address Home: |
| Work Phone: |
| Home Phone: |
| Fax: |
| E-mail: |
| |
| Check items which describe your area: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English/Writing Faculty |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading Faculty |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Math Faculty |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Study Skills Faculty |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speech Faculty |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supervisor/ Administrator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two-year College |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Four-year College/University |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other |