



The Educator's Newsletter

Spring 2007

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Insert
 Call for
[Proposals for](#)
[2007 Conference](#)



With the theme, "A Rich Past and a Hopeful Future", the 2006 ALADE Conference celebrated twenty years of the organization's advocacy of developmental studies in higher education in Alabama. More than one hundred educators from across the state gathered in Birmingham in November for two days of presentations and SPIN sessions addressing developmental education issues.

President Elaine Bassett began the opening session on with a characteristically warm welcome, during which she acknowledged Presidents Emeriti in attendance. They included Keflyn Reed, Evelyn Hodge, Eleanor Lee, Nydia Powell, and Lisa James. She also praised the "Father of ALADE", TClifford Bibb, who was unable to attend.

After a stirring rendition of America, the Beautiful by Miles College Developmental English instructor Elizabeth Spraggins, President Emerita Evelyn Hodge (1993-1994) introduced President Emeritus Keflyn Reed (1991-1992), who, as opening session keynote speaker, challenged his fellow educators to reflect on the ideals which led to ALADE's inception in 1986. He also emphasized the need for commitment to improving education, charging those in attendance to ponder the question, "What else can I do for my students?"

Luncheon keynote speaker Leatha Bennett was introduced by fellow Tougaloo College alumna Acquanetta Bracy. Bennett, Director of the Office of Retention and Academic Support at Alabama A&M University recalled her own scholarly pursuits as a student in the Upward Bound Program, which fueled her already intense intellect and burning desire for learning and higher education endeavors. Calling the conference theme "both re-

flective and prophetic", Bennett applauded and encouraged collaborative efforts among colleagues and the continuation of the passion for teaching which spurs our efforts. She emphasized academic intervention as an essential part of commitment to students and to their success.

It was enlightening to hear students' perspectives when it comes to the role and effectiveness of developmental education in our state. Two-year representative Laura Brown and Lawson State Community College Academic Dean Sherri Davis presented five students from that institution who rendered lively and insightful responses to questions regarding their experiences with developmental courses. All acknowledged that such courses were needed because many students would otherwise fail or drop other classes due to weak academic skills.

Special Points of Interest



TClifford Bibb, one of the founders of ALADE, served as its first president (1987-89). He was later elected president of NADE.



Diaon Cook takes the helm as the nineteenth president of ALADE.



Photo courtesy of Keflyn Reed

2007-2008 Officers are sworn in by Immediate Past President Lisa James. Pictured from left to right are Alan Brown (Corresponding Secretary), Donna Estill (President-Elect), Diaon Cook (President), Connie Rowe (Treasurer), Charlotte Matthews (Recording Secretary), Laura Brown (Two-year Representative), and Shirley Powe (Four-year Representative).

**Conference
Highlights!**

The University of South Alabama Developmental Studies
Program:

Twenty-Five Years of Success

Dorothy Mollise, Charlotte Matthews, Connie Rowe, Linda Robitzsch

**Twenty Years
and Beyond...**

English

Color-Coded Corrections: A New Way to See Language
(Greg Jones, Univ. of West Alabama)

Developmental English Goes High Tech::
Online Portfolios and Grading (Ginger Glass, Ala. Southern)

The Struggling Writer: Evaluating and Grading Student Texts
(AnnMarie Depas, Alabama State Univ.)

Using Transcription in the Remedial English Classroom
(Alan Brown, Univ. of West Alabama)

A 21st Century Approach to Teaching Developmental Writing
(Sherri Davis, Lawson State)

Using Problem-Based Learning in the Developmental Writing Class
(Susan Anker, Bedford/St. Martin's)

Math

Eradicate Math Phobia! Create Math Mania!
(Michelle Goosby, L.B. Wallace C.C.)

Developmental Math Solutions
(Mitzi DeWolfe, Pearson Education)

Critical Thinking

Student Success Driven by Mastery of Bloom's Levels
(Linda Robitzsch, Univ. of South Alabama)

SPIN: The Power of Critical Thinking
(Lynda Humphrey, Alabama State University)

Assessment

Utilizing the Academic Profile Test and a
Grounded Theory Qualitative Methodology
(Dan Osborn, Univ. of Alabama-Birmingham)



NADE Conference 2007: "Piecing It Together"

Several members of ALADE, including President Diaon Cook, President-Elect Donna Estill, and Secretary Charlotte Matthews, attended the annual NADE Conference March 21-24 in Nashville. The conference was a smorgasbord of learning opportunities, and a few of the highlights are below:

At the Leadership Congress on March 21, leaders of the state and regional organizations were introduced to new NADE leaders, including President Gerry McBroom and President-Elect Rosemary Karr. Committees presented reports, including the Political Advocacy Committee (<http://www.eastcentral.edu/NADE/PoliticalAdvocacy/index.html>), the Research Committee, the Placement Committee, and the Archives Committee. The Research Committee is collecting information on the Commissioners of Higher Education Level in the various states. In addition, chapters were guided through the process of remaining in good standing with NADE, including deadlines of reports and applications for grants. The keynote speaker Thursday, March 22, was Dr. Mark Milliron (NISOD), who gave a lively presentation on the use of technology in colleges in general and Developmental Education specifically.

A dynamic speaker, Milliron suggested that while technology is critical and will be an ever-increasing factor in all segments of education, it is important educators "ruthlessly" weed out technology that doesn't work for the students; thus, it is important that we continuously assess the effectiveness of the technology we use. On Friday, March 23, Dr. Calvin Mackie (Tulane University, NADE Outstanding Alumnus of a Developmental Education Program 2004) had people standing and cheering during his moving keynote address in which he talked about the ways that he himself was helped by developmental educators during his early college days. Dr. Mackie noted that the only way America will survive and thrive is through educating our young people and not letting them be overwhelmed by the influence of popular culture.

The presentations were many and varied, but a strong theme of this year's conference was brain-based research and cognitive theory as implemented in developmental education classrooms. Several of our own ALADE members presented, including Charlotte Matthews of the University of South Alabama ("From Idea to Publication: A Step-by-Step Guide"); and

Joan Reeves, Shirley Buttram, and Tonie Niblett of Northeast Alabama Community College ("Piecing It Together through the Learning Community Experience").

I go to several conferences of all sorts every year, and I have to say that this is singularly the best and most helpful that I've ever attended. I can implement the information that I gathered immediately in all of my classes, and I am looking forward to doing so. I've come back with a new outlook on teaching. I do not say this lightly—go to a NADE Conference!

Next year's conference is February 27-March 1, 2008, in Boston; the theme is "Developmental Education: The New Revolution." A Call for Proposals should be on the website (www.nade.net) soon, but if you're interested, contact me for a copy of the form.

Let's have more Alabama folks presenting next year!

Donna Estill, PhD
Alabama Southern Community College

[ALADERS on the move]

Powell Elected to Journal Board

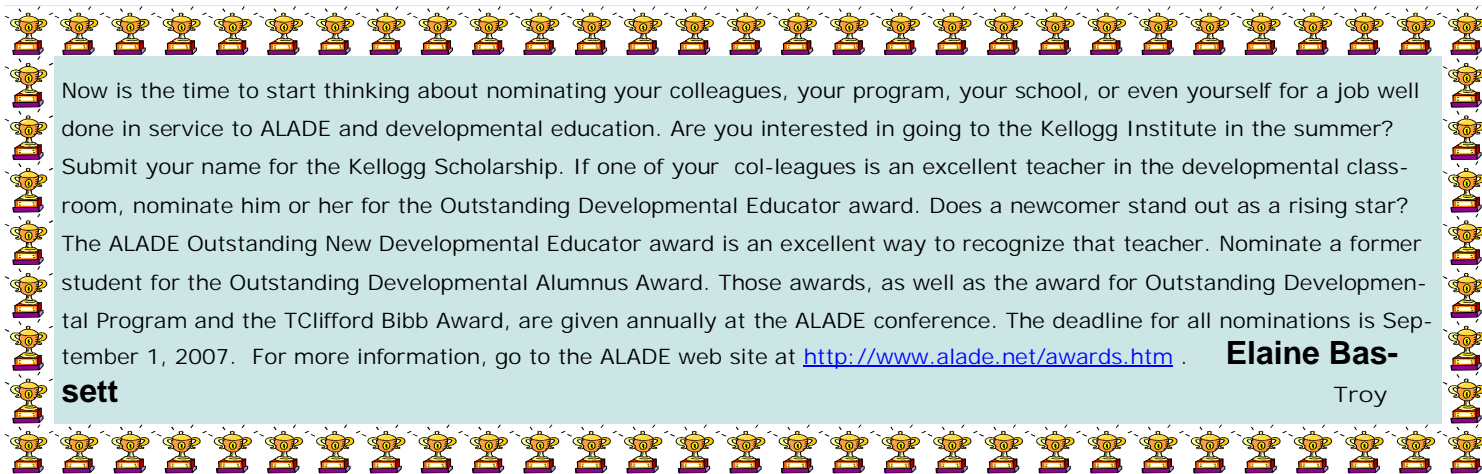
Nydia Powell, adjunct instructor of developmental mathematics at the Talladega Center, was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Alabama Journal of Mathematics. The Board consists of members elected from the Alabama Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ACTM) and the Alabama Association of College Teachers

of Mathematics. Powell, who serves as a member of both of these organizations, was elected at the annual conference of ACTM. The Alabama Journal of Mathematics is published twice a year and encourages teachers of all levels of mathematics in Alabama to submit articles. Please visit the Journal's webpage at

<http://spectrum.troy.edu/~ajm/> for more information about the Journal and ordering its back issues. Congratulations to Dr. Powell, ALADE president emerita, for receiving such an honor and for representing CACC so well.

Laura Brown

Central Alabama Community College



Now is the time to start thinking about nominating your colleagues, your program, your school, or even yourself for a job well done in service to ALADE and developmental education. Are you interested in going to the Kellogg Institute in the summer? Submit your name for the Kellogg Scholarship. If one of your colleagues is an excellent teacher in the developmental classroom, nominate him or her for the Outstanding Developmental Educator award. Does a newcomer stand out as a rising star? The ALADE Outstanding New Developmental Educator award is an excellent way to recognize that teacher. Nominate a former student for the Outstanding Developmental Alumnus Award. Those awards, as well as the award for Outstanding Developmental Program and the TClifford Bibb Award, are given annually at the ALADE conference. The deadline for all nominations is September 1, 2007. For more information, go to the ALADE web site at <http://www.alade.net/awards.htm>.

Elaine Bassett
Troy

Recipes for Success



Different Strokes for Different Folks

If we keep doing the same things we will continue to get the same results. There is a saying in the educational arena that "We teach as we were taught." Many educators pursue and procure advanced degrees only to end up using the same techniques and strategies that we used during our internship and neophyte teaching years. We must realize that teaching is dynamic rather than static and that we need to vary our delivery in style as well as content from class to class.

Education is a complex endeavor that deals with interacting with a complex and dynamic clientele in a complex and dynamic context. We need to remember

that different students learn at different rates and have different learning styles, preferences, backgrounds and interests.

Here is a list of variables that educators need to be cognizant of when planning for and delivering instruction

1) Modes of input.

a. Visual Mode K-W-L, Semantic Map, Venn Diagrams, Charts, Graphs, Power Point,

b. Auditory/Verbal Mode Small Group Instruction, Lecture, Pod Casts, Cell Phone delivered instruction (used in Europe and Asia)

c. Kinesthetic/Tactile Mode Role Playing, Learning in the Field, Peer teaching, Computerized Instruction

2) Domain

a. Cognitive Domain Bloom's Taxonomy, Piaget's Stages,

Meta-cognitive Strategies, Higher Order Thinking

b. Affective domain Self-esteem, Self – efficacy, Vygotsky, Erik Erickson, Howard Gardner, Lawrence Kohlberg's Moral Development

c. Psychomotor Domain Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

3) Assessment

a. Anecdotal records

b. Performance Assessment

c. Portfolio Assessment

Franklin Witherspoon, PhD
Alabama State University

"We must realize that teaching is dynamic rather than static...; we need to vary our delivery, in style as well as content, from class to class."

Share and Tell



Send your great ideas
and teaching tips to
lkhumphrey@yahoo.com

Alabama Association for Developmental Education

Diaon Cook, President
LBW Community College
1000 Dannelly Blvd.
Andalusia, AL 36420



On the move in Alabama!

Join NADE now!!!

Brown Gives Developmental Education Summit Update

As part of the 2006 ALADE conference, Laura Brown, chair of CACC's Transitional Education division, spoke about the current status of Post-secondary's role in the progress begun at last year's first state-wide developmental education summit held in Montgomery. Brown stressed that Dr. Thomas Corts, Interim Chancellor, supports and recognizes the important function of developmental education programs as part of the two-year college system. He has allowed the subcommittees formed last spring from Advisory Council members plus summit attendees who indicated a willingness to serve on a state-wide committee to continue their research. These committees include

such developmental education topics as placement testing, classroom technology, open entry/open exit scheduling, grading, advisement, instructor preparation/professional development, and software choices. An additional committee for the study of course content is in the process of developing standardized syllabi for each developmental discipline. Since the first summit identified the problems encountered in current developmental education programs throughout the state, the second summit will determine solutions based on the work presented by these committees.

Laura K. Brown
Central Alabama Community College

Submit all items for the Fall '07

ALADE newsletter

(in WORD or text format)

to Editor Lynda Humphrey

(lkhumphrey@yahoo.com)

by Sept. 18.

How Are We Doing? Students Weigh In

See Cover Story



Photo courtesy of Keflyn Reed

Five students from Birmingham's Lawson State Community College participated in a panel discussion regarding the quality and benefits of developmental education. They are pictured here with Dr. Sherri Davis (on the left), Lawson State's Academic Dean.