



Michigan Tutorial Association



December 2009

The Many Faces of Tutoring

Dozens of professional and student tutors braved the rain and wind to attend the Michigan Tutorial Association's 27th annual conference in Lansing on October 30.

"The Many Faces of Tutoring" were mirrored in the presentations. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Lane Glenn, vice president of academic affairs at Northern Essex Community College in Hav-

erhill, MA, formerly of Oakland Community College. Dr. Glenn's topic was Failure to Launch, about the decreasing academic success and even presence of young men. How can we better engage and support these students? Dr. Glenn also had a follow-up breakout session. You can see his PowerPoint at our website.

Session topics included disabilities, math tips, Bloom's

taxonomy, reading, learning styles, and computer use. The annual meeting saw the re-election of Scott Werhnyak as Treasurer, but we need nominations for secretary and president-elect. The Nomination form is on the website.

Our 2010 conference will be hosted by St. Clair Community College (SC4) in Port Huron. Thanks to Tim Lutenski of St. Clair!

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- * Connections 2010
- * TOY
- * Tips for reducing your stress during the end of the semester
- * Letter from the President

Vincent Named 2009 MTA Tutor of the Year

Muskegon Community College student David Vincent received the 2009 Tutor of the Year Award from the Michigan Tutorial Association (MTA). David was honored with a monetary prize and a plaque at the 27th MTA Connections Conference October 30.

Kathryn Schrader, Tutoring & SI Supervisor at MCC, was one of David's nominators, and fans. "I'm sometimes amazed at the energy that some young people have," she says, "and David is one of those people."

David tutored math since he started at MCC in 2007, and according to

Schrader, has an "uncanny" ability to relate to people, and ease their math anxieties with his sense of humor. "He knew just what to say and just when to say it to elicit the response that he was looking for," said Schrader. "Each semester students seemed to gravitate to him just for that reason."

David has done one-on-one tutoring, online tutoring, volunteer tutoring with Upward Bound, and Supplemental Instruction at MCC. He is a member of MTA, a volunteer wrestling coach at his former Newaygo high school, and a member of MCC's Phi Theta Kappa Chapter.

David transferring to Ferris State University in the fall, where he plans to major in Math Education.

"I'm always happy to see my students go into education," said Schrader. "My loss is their gain."



David Vincent

Passing on the 'Crown'

In October, we witnessed the changing of the guard for MTA.. Who are these mysterious Board Members and where are they now?

Elizabeth (Liz) Dewey, Delta College; Immediate Past President & Web Manager

Liz started tutoring in 1990 at Delta College's T/LC and decided it was indeed, a great place to work! Dewey is currently a Student Development Special-



Passing on the crown in style!

ist at Delta's T/LC and tutors everything except math and science. The Board counts on her superb editing skills to keep our correspondence precise! Liz owns an elderly Morgan horse named Sunny. Her favorite quote is "There is no sin except stupidity" by Oscar Wilde.

Annette Mileski, Southwestern Michigan College; President

After having spent nearly 20 years in higher ed admissions, Annette decided she needed a change. She is the current Director of the Teaching and Learning Centers and has held this position for three years. She moonlights as a Professional Storyteller, practices TaeKwon Do and is active in Community Theater. Her favorite quote is from Clairee Belcher in *Steel Magnolias*, "I was the color announcer for the Devils. I was fabulous! I was too colorful for words!"

Lights are on, but nobody is home!

Yes, Virginia, there really is a Santa Claus and the folks on the MTA Board are hoping he will bring us a new Secretary and a President-Elect!!!

Seriously, we do need two people to step forward to fill these vacancies. I promise it will not be too painful and you might actually enjoy it immensely.

The President-elect is volunteering for

a three-year board term; year one is learning/working with the president. The second year you serve as President and the third year is as Immediate Past President and T.O.Y. coordi-

"it will not be too painful and you might actually enjoy it immensely!"

nator. Easy? Yes! Enjoyable? Absolutely!

The Secretary's term is one year, but you will most likely want to 'run' for a second or even third term! This is highly encouraged but not required.

The process is simple, just email Annette at ascheid@swmich.edu about your interest.

Members, Money, and Management Matters

Joyce VanBaak, Grand Valley State University; Membership Chair

Joyce first dipped her toes into the tutoring pool six years ago and is the current Director of Tutoring for GVSU in Allendale, Michigan. Just a few miles from the Furniture City of the Midwest (Grand Rapids), Joyce enjoys working with the students and faculty. In addition to her 'day job', Joyce is a Biofeedback Practioner and attended a very insightful conference in

Denver in 2008. Her favorite quote: "I am that I am."

Scott Werhnyak, Oakland Community College, Royal Oak Campus; Treasurer

Scott's legacy of tutoring began 20 years ago and he currently serves as an Accessibility Compliance Center and Educational Support Services Specialist. But we on the Board just call him, "our Man who pays the

bills!"

Scott has served as our treasurer for a number of years and does a wonderful job keeping the finances in check. In addition to being the proud owner of a tricked out toilet plunger, he is a descendent of President Andrew Jackson. His favorite quote: "And this too shall pass."



The Old and the Restless

Louis Noakes, Southwestern Michigan College and Western University; Historian

Louis serves as our first Historian in a very long time! He now serves as a professional tutor/Writing Consultant at SMC as well as a Writing Consultant at Western. Louis likes fast-pitch softball; loves high school football (Go BEARS!!) and secretly sings all of the music of the 'new' Hairspray movie in French! His favorite quote: "History never dies. It only sleeps."

Kathryn Schrader, Muskegon Com-

munity College; Past President and Founding Member ("And I've got the crown to prove it!")

Lady K began tutoring when she was about 3 and has been in the business of helping students succeed for 33 years! She is the Tutoring and SI Supervisor at MCC and is extremely excited about her new office. Before discovering the tutoring biz, Kathryn sang profes-

sionally and performed with Rudy Vallee. Kathryn says, "There is no shame in seeking help. Even Alexander the Great had a tutor. His name was Aristotle."



To infinity and beyond...too bad I'm not a math person so this would make sense!

At Large and in Charge!

Sam Drake, Michigan State University; Member at Large

Sam started tutoring at Cleveland State University in Cleveland Ohio nearly 20 years ago. He holds a BS in math and an MS in applied Mathematics. Since 1998, Sam has served as the Tutoring Program Coordinator and Mathematics Learning Specialist. Sam is a big fan of the martial arts film genre and has an incredible col-

lection of martial art movies. His favorite quote is from Karl Menninger, "What's done to children, they will do to society."

Kim Boose, Oakland Community College; Member at Large

Kim started tutoring 25 years ago in San Diego, California when she was just a mere child and she soon real-

ized how much she enjoyed it! She currently serves as faculty supervisor of the Academic Support Center of the Auburn Hills Campus. In addition to work, Kim loves sailing and owns two sail boats. Her favorite quote "I hope my ship comes in before my dock rots."



Where's MTA in 2010?

Tim Lutenski, Instructional Specialist for St. Clair County Community College has graciously offered to host our 2010 Connections Conference! Now for a bit about our host site: **St. Clair County Community College** began as Port Huron Junior College in 1923. It has continued without interruption since that time.

The St. Clair County Community Col-

lege District was established by a vote of the people on June 12, 1967, which transformed the former Port Huron Junior College to a county-wide community college. Final approval of the transfer was given by the Michigan State Board of Education, which authorized an effective day of January 1, 1968.

The college first received its accredita-

tion from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools in 1931. A transfer of this accreditation was made by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools during the 1968-69 school year to the community college.

SC4 offers 55 Associate degree and Certificate programs and serves more than 6,000 students annually.

Check out our web site!!

www.michigan-tutors.org

Tutoring for a better tomorrow.



Tips for Lessening STRESS!!!!!!

- *Breathe slowly; fill your lungs, hold, and release**
- *Smile, it makes people wonder what they missed**
- *Take a 10 second mental vacation; go to your happy place...mentally!**
- *Color or eat chocolate or both!**
- *Make a snow angel**
- *Get up and go for a short walk**
- *Remember, tutoring is important, but no one has died from failing a math test**
- * You are the only one who controls how stress affects you-don't give up your control!**

We Need You: A Letter from Annette

Dear Colleagues,

December? Really? Weren't we just in Lansing listening to Lane in October?

I am very excited to be the new President of MTA; what an honor! I have thoroughly enjoyed being involved with MTA for the last 3 years and hope that I am able to provide the leadership needed to keep us moving forward.

We on the Board truly hope you enjoyed the Connections 2009 Conference. We would like to thank all of our presenters for providing our workshops. The evaluations for the sessions were very good and we appreciate your feedback as participants.

Now for the other stuff—our Board is incomplete! We did not receive any nominations for President-Elect or Secretary. Have you thought more

about it? If not, why not? If not you—who? Let me know when you have reconsidered or have someone to recommend.

I am hoping we try some new things this year, beginning with regional gatherings. How about hosting a small, one-day, hands-on seminar at your college? I would like to see MTA regional events which would allow us



With teamwork—anything is possible!

to meet with our geographically close colleagues to try a new technology in learning. Are you interested?

It would also be wonderful to develop a 'Members Only' spot on our website. Wouldn't it be a great place to house a learning assistance acronym dictionary? (MTA, CRLA, ATP, NCLCA, ETC)

Do you have a tutoring tip to share for the next newsletter? Email me!

These are just a couple of ideas; to hear more join us for our monthly board meetings in Lansing. All dates are posted on the web site.

One last note—if you are in need of some holiday silliness, listen to "Don't be a Jerk, It's Christmas!" sung by Sponge Bob Squarepants. Best Christmas song. Ever.

Peace—Annette