

# MDLA Newsletter



From President Richard Schumaker and the Board of Directors

OCTOBER 27, 2009

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## **SOCIAL MANIA: CONNECTIONS 2009 – NOVEMBER 3 & BEYOND**

Our fall event, *Social Mania: Connections 2009*, will be held on November 3, 2009 at Anne Arundel Community College's Arundel Mills campus. If you registered in time to garner one of the limited number of seats at this event ... we look forward to seeing you! *Social Mania* begins at 8:30 am, and directions to this event at 7009 Arundel Mills Circle, Hanover, MD can be found at <http://www.aacc.edu/locationsandmaps/directions.cfm>. For questions concerning *Social Mania*, please contact President Richard Schumaker ([rschumaker@umuc.edu](mailto:rschumaker@umuc.edu)) or President-Elect Jean Runyon ([jmrunyon@aacc.edu](mailto:jmrunyon@aacc.edu)).

Dr. Cole Camplese, Director of Education Technology Services at Pennsylvania State University, will take the place of the previously announced keynote presenter, Larry Ragan. The title of his address will be "And If that's scholarship then,..." Following *Social Mania*, Dr. Camplese's presentation will be available on the MDLA website and he will lead an open online discussion using the vBulletin platform November 4-6, 2009. So even if you weren't able to attend Social Mania, you'll still have the opportunity to learn from this keynote presentation and engage in a discussion with Cole. Background information about Dr. Camplese may be found at <http://www.colecamplese.com/>.

PLEASE NOTE THAT REGISTRATION FOR THE LIMITED NUMBER OF SEATS AT THIS EVENT IS NOW CLOSED. If you didn't register in time or cannot otherwise attend, please see our Web site (<http://www.marylanddla.org>) for the latest MDLA news and notices.

## **MDLA ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER**

MDLA now has a presence on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Maryland-Distance->

[Learning-Association/155195436098?ref=ts&v=wall](http://Learning-Association/155195436098?ref=ts&v=wall). In addition, you can now follow MDLA on Twitter at *marylanddla*.

## NEW ADVISORY COUNCIL FORMED

As MDLA has grown, it has become increasingly clear that the organization needs a stable, dynamic Advisory Council. One of MDLA's pioneers, Buddy Muse, is coordinating the charter and first membership of this council which will be introduced at *Social Mania* on November 3. For information about this Council, please feel free to contact Buddy at [Buddy.Muse@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:Buddy.Muse@montgomerycollege.edu).

## NEW WEBINAR SERIES BEGINS

MDLA's first Webinar, *The College Textbook Competition and Affordability Act 2009 - Challenges and Opportunities* facilitated by Margaret Horner of Anne Arundel Community College, was held on October 21, 2009. 35 individuals participated in this webinar, discussing the details and impact of this new act on distance education. If you were unable to attend this webinar, you can listen to the archived session in Elluminate Live at <https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/jwsdetect/playback.jnlp?psid=2009-10-23.0626.D.C1DAB0BABF8E3119A549512F73F3A2.vcr>.

Throughout 2009-2010 MDLA will hold a series of FREE monthly webinars for the Maryland distance education community. These webinars will be on subjects that are compelling to the entire community; we're especially interested in opening up discussion and dialogue on topics of interest that might be overlooked at typical distance education and technology meetings and events. If you or your institution is interested in hosting or facilitating one of these webinars, please contact Richard Schumaker at [rschumaker@umuc.edu](mailto:rschumaker@umuc.edu).

## SPRING 2010 CONFERENCE

The details for MDLA's spring 2010 conference are now available. The conference theme and tracks reflect recent suggestions from MDLA's membership – thanks to everyone who submitted their ideas!

### **Meeting the Challenge: Guiding the Next Decade of Digital Learners**

**March 4, 2010**

**Sheppard Pratt Conference Center, Baltimore MD**

### **Call for Presentation Proposals**

Presentation proposals in the following tracks are due no later than December 4, 2009 via the form at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/MDLAspring2>.

Tracks	Potential Topic Areas
Student Retention & Success Strategies	Student support services (library, tutoring, advising). Engaging students online. Strategies for building an online teaching and learning community. Assessment and learning outcomes in the online format. Teaching to a variety of learners and learning styles.
Transformative Learning Experiences in Distance Education	Hybrid and blended course strategies. MDLA member's showcase (schools or individuals). Hands-on and virtual

	laboratory, field, and experiential learning in distance education. New strategies in online teaching.
Distance Learning Tools for the Next Decade	Free, fun, and easy technology tools for online course development. Open educational resources. E-books. Mobil learning in distance education.
Professional Resources for Distance Educators and Administrators	Professional development opportunities for distance educators and administrators. Time-saving tricks of the trade. Distance education research. Issues and best practice in copyright and fair use.

### **Call for Award Nominations**

Award nominations in the following areas should be emailed to [jmrunyon@aacc.edu](mailto:jmrunyon@aacc.edu) no later than January 25, 2010. Award descriptions and nomination forms in the following areas are available online at: <http://www.marylanddla.org/nomination.htm>. Award areas for 2010 are:

- Distance Educator of the Year, Higher Education
- Distance Educator of the Year, K-12
- Distance Learning Administrator of the Year
- Distance Learning Course of the Year
- Distance Learning Program of the Year
- Instructional Designer of the Year

### **Conference Registration**

Conference registration fees are: Early Bird - \$100, Regular - \$125. Conference Registration Opens in December 2009.

### **Program Planning**

If you have suggestions for a keynote speaker and/or would like to serve on the Spring 2010 Conference Program Planning Committee, contact Vice-President Chris Sax at [csax@ship.edu](mailto:csax@ship.edu).

## **CLOSING THOUGHTS**

We look forward to see you at *Social Mania* on November 3, 2009. At that time, in addition to presenting trends and best practices in social networking, we will also share with you what's in store for 2009-2010 at MDLA. The accent this year will be on innovation and creativity: we're all eager to get to the next level of online learning in Maryland, and the board very much wants MDLA to be an important part of this.

Richard Schumaker  
[rschumaker@umuc.edu](mailto:rschumaker@umuc.edu)  
 Tel: 240.582.2749

## **ABOUT MDLA**

The Maryland Distance Learning Association (MDLA) is an association of learning professionals who advocate and promote the coordination and use of distance learning in Maryland and throughout the region. For more information about MDLA, go to <http://www.MarylandDLA.org>.

*To unsubscribe from electronic mailings from the Maryland Distance Learning Association, send an email to*

*rschumaker@umuc.edu.*