

# MDLA Newsletter



*From President Richard Schumaker and the Board of Directors*

SEPTEMBER 28, 2009

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>

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## SOCIAL MANIA: CONNECTIONS 2009

I want to take this opportunity to remind you that the MDLA fall event, *Social Mania: Connections 2009*, will be held on November 3, 2009 at the Anne Arundel Community College facility at the Arundel Mills Mall. Larry Ragan of the Penn State World Campus will give the keynote address. This FREE event is limited to 130 people: at present there are about forty places remaining, so please sign up as soon as you can. A number of presentation slots are also still available. To register and/or submit a presentation proposal, please simply go to our Web site: <http://www.marylanddla.org>.

## 2009-1010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the fall event, we will be introducing the 2009-2010 MDLA Board of Directors consisting of the following:

President:	Richard Schumaker
President-Elect:	Jean Runyon
Past President:	John Beyers
Vice President, Finance:	Chikao Tsubaki
Vice President, Programs:	Christina Sax
Secretary & Webster:	Melissa Harris

## NEW ADVISORY COUNCIL FORMING

As MDLA has grown, it has become increasingly clear that the organization needs a stable, dynamic Advisory Council. One of the MDLA pioneers, Buddy Muse is coordinating the charter and first membership of this council. For information about this Council, please feel free to contact him at [Buddy.Muse@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:Buddy.Muse@montgomerycollege.edu).

## NEW WEBINAR SERIES BEGINS

MDLA is pleased to announce that throughout 2009-2010 we will hold a series of FREE monthly webinars for the Maryland online 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.

**Our first Webinar will be:**

**October 21, 2009, 3:00-4:00 pm EST**

**The College Textbook Competition and Affordability Act 2009 - Challenges and Opportunities  
Margaret Horner, Anne Arundel Community College**

Maryland's newly enacted textbook legislation poses both challenges and opportunities for a variety of campus stakeholders including faculty, bookstores, IT, libraries, print shops and administrators. This webinar will provide stakeholders an overview of the provisions within the legislation, a look at Anne Arundel Community College's compliance activities and implementation challenges, and an opportunity for discussing innovative solutions to the issue of textbook affordability.

To participate in this webinar,  
please e-mail our president-elect Jean Runyon at [jmrunyon@aacc.edu](mailto:jmrunyon@aacc.edu)

## NEW ONLINE FORUM BEGINS

MDLA will host a continuing forum on the vBulletin platform starting in October 2009. The presentations at both our yearly events will be posted to this forum for continuing post-conference discussion. We will also host various discussions between the annual events. On November 1, I will begin a year-long forum entitled *Shakespeare in Washington 2009-2010* which will follow the offerings of the Shakespeare Theater Company and the Folger Theater in Washington D.C.

## SPRING 2010 CONFERENCE

Planning for the annual spring conference on March 4, 2010 at the Sheppard Pratt Conference Center in Baltimore MD is underway. Thanks to all who recently submitted their suggestions for the conference title and tracks. Stay tuned for an announcement of these in the next newsletter. If you would like to serve on the Program Planning Committee, please email our vice-president of programs Chris Sax at [csax@ship.edu](mailto:csax@ship.edu).

## CLOSING THOUGHTS

As you can see, MDLA is expanding: in addition to its traditional fall and spring events, we will be hosting monthly webinars, improve dialogue about conference themes, and host compelling fora throughout the academic year. We are looking forward to seeing you at *Social Mania* and then again at our spring conference in March 2010. Feel free to contact me any time if you have comments or suggestions.

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