

Reflections on the 32nd Annual ACTLA Conference: Navigating Uncharted Waters: Helping Students Steer the Course

By Loretta Richard

ACTLA President

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What a great weekend at the 32nd ACTLA Conference in Berkeley! Our keynote speaker, Frank Christ, was enthusiastic and encouraging. Presenters provided members with exciting ideas to implement on their campuses. In addition, the weather, hotel location, and food were great; and the hotel staff was exceptionally helpful. Our thanks go out to Frank Christ and all the presenters for taking time to share with all of us and for helping to make this a successful conference.

The conference planning committee with support from the rest of the Board members did a great job in putting the conference together. A big thank you goes to Becky Reetz, Natasha Oehlman, and Howard Masuda who coordinated and organized all the conference activities. Thank you to Louisa Herrera for being the registration chair. In addition, thank you to all who attended, the Board enjoyed the opportunity to visit with you. It was also exciting to have out-of-state colleagues in attendance. We hope to see you all next year.

The conference ended with the selection of new board members who are already working out the details for the 2007 Conference in Southern California (April 19-21 or April 26-28 are the dates we are looking at). We hope to have the dates and hotel determined before the fall term. Be sure to check the website for updates.

I look forward to serving ACTLA and working with the Board as we strive to help you in your work.

Loretta

ACTLA 32nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



We are pleased to announce that this year's recipient of the ACTLA Lifetime Achievement Award is Mr. Frank Christ. Frank has been actively involved with learning assistance for the past 30 years and was the director of the CSU Long Beach Summer Institutes (1985-1989), the co-director/coordinator of the Arizona Winter Institutes (1991-2003). He was the founder and past coordinator (1972-1990) of the award-winning Learning Assistance Support System at CSU Long Beach and is also a past president of the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). He is the author of the first computer-based diagnostic and prescriptive study skills survey, six study skills textbooks, and many articles on learning assistance, study skills, and technology as it impacts on teaching and student learning. In recent years, Frank has been involved in on-line course development and teaching as well as presenting workshops on learning support for online student/learners.

Frank is a past president of the College Reading and Learning Association. His editorial contributions include guest editor and contributor to the Jossey-Bass *New Directions for Learning Assistance* series (1981), founding columnist (1981-87) of the Journal of Developmental Education "Techtalk" Series, co-editor of *Starting up a Learning Assistance Center: Conversations With CRLA Members Who Have Been There and Done That* (2000), co-author of *100 Things Every Online Student Ought To Know*. (2003), and of *Online Student Skills and Strategies Handbook* (2006). In addition, Frank is a Founding Fellow (2000) of ACDEA.

Summary of the 32nd Annual ACTLA Conference: Navigating Uncharted Waters: Helping Students Steer the Course

By Daniel Aucutt

ACTLA Newsletter Editor
Assistant Director, Learning Center
Mount St. Mary's College

Set beside the waters of the San Francisco Bay in the Berkeley Marina, we enjoyed a fitting backdrop to the theme of this year's conference: steering our students through uncharted waters to success. Judging from the reactions of colleagues, the conference made a successful voyage.

Presenters treated us to a series of provocative workshops to fine-tune our student services. We discovered new ways of using technology, tutor training, and learning center management to serve our populations more effectively. Frank Christ opened with an invigorating keynote address. Most of us felt energized and inspired by the conference.

If you attended the conference, don't hesitate to offer your insights and reflections. Compose an article and submit it to newslettereditor@actla.info. We would like to include your name and your place of employment as a byline. If you have any questions about this process, please email the newsletter editor with your concerns.

Many thanks are due to the conference coordinators and other members of the Executive Board for assembling the event. Natasha Oehlman, Becky Reetz, and Howard Masuda did a marvelous job of producing a smooth sequence of activities. Additional thanks go to our president, Loretta Richard, for managing the preparations. Other ACTLA members lent their time and efforts to assembling booklets, ordering accessories, and producing programs. Finally, we especially want to applaud our presenters. Here they are in the order of their appearances:

Friday, April 28th, 2006

Frank Christ, Keynote Speaker "Learning Assistance Leadership: Challenges and Concomitant Opportunities"

Mark Greenwood "Web-Based Tutor Training and Certification"

Diana Alves de Lima & Jeanne Kastelic "Study Strategies Across the Curriculum"

Dr. Emily Nye & Dr. Sarah Frey "The Challenge of Combining Math/Writing Tutor Training"

Virginia Gessford "New Title V Regulations"

Frank Christ "Learning Assistance Leadership"

