

# ACHE MidAtlantic NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 2, September 2010

ACHE MidAtlantic Region Board announces

## **TRAVEL GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS**

*A total of \$2000 available for MidAtlantic members and graduate students!*

### **ACHE MidAtlantic Graduate Student Scholarships**

The MidAtlantic Region of ACHE is offering three \$500 scholarships to graduate students pursuing a degree in a field related to Continuing Education. If your college or university offers any graduate degrees in such a field, please communicate this opportunity to the head of that program and/or to the faculty and students. Interested students should send an e-mail message to Tim Sanford ([tim\\_sanford@unc.edu](mailto:tim_sanford@unc.edu)) giving their name, degree pursued, department, field if different, and a brief statement of their interest in Continuing Education. Students need not be members of ACHE to be considered, but they do need to be enrolled at an institution in the MidAtlantic Region. The deadline for applying is September 25, 2010.

### **ACHE MidAtlantic Travel Grants**

If you are hoping to attend the ACHE National Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico (Oct. 19-23) but are not sure you'll have the resources, consider applying for one of two MidAtlantic Travel Grants of \$250 available to its members (as were offered for the 2010 regional conference in Natural Bridge). Members should send e-mail Tim Sanford ([tim\\_sanford@unc.edu](mailto:tim_sanford@unc.edu)) expressing their interest. The deadline is September 25, 2010.



ACHE is dedicated to promoting excellence in continuing higher education and to members sharing their expertise with one another. We are proud to be the MidAtlantic Region, and as a community within the field of continuing education we sustain professional relationships through shared practices and effective networking at the collegiate level.

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

- Instructional approaches in online learning
- Career development and the adult learner
- Save the dates!



**Annual Conference and Meeting  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
October 21-23, 2010**

**"Continuing education - reflecting upon and responding to the national agenda"**

Right click [HERE](#) to see the complete schedule online, along with session details and keynote speakers!

Editors

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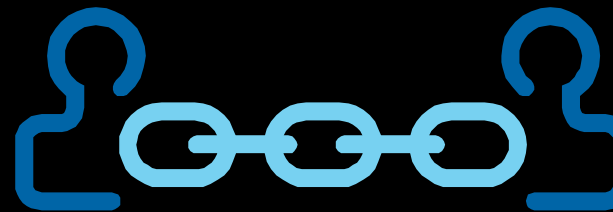
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# PRACTICAL CONNECTIONS



## INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACHES TO ONLINE LEARNING

**Emily Lewis, Ed.D.** is the Associate Director, Center for Continuing & Professional Studies at Morgan State University, MD. Her ongoing research and professional experience considers the use of technology to deliver academic programs in a theoretically sound matter from a faculty and adult learner perspective. Below is a reflection from Emily's most recent research and presentation titled *Developing the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Autonomous Adult Learner for the Online Environment*.

A distance online education environment requires, in most situations, an autonomous adult learner. The role of the distance online education instructor must change from transmitting knowledge to assisting learners to acquire knowledge through inquisition. The process of developing the autonomous adult learner in a distance online education environment requires a movement from pedagogy to andragogy concepts. Conceptualizing this movement can be accomplished by instituting an instructional scaffolding approach.

*A scaffolding instructional approach administered appropriately allows the instructor to gradually decrease support as students' performance improves.*

I developed an instructional scaffolding approach based on Vygotsky's scaffolding theory in an attempt to support the adult learners' ability to be an autonomous learner. I conducted a pilot study using my instructional scaffolding approach that involved six of my nine-week classes.

The scaffolding approach consisted of

providing illustrations, examples, and models to help students make the connections between the concepts, terms, and theories introduced in the course. The scaffolding approach was presented during the first three weeks for each of the classes. Students were also asked to evaluate the instructional approach at the end of the course.

Prior to using the scaffolding approach, my end-of-course student evaluations yielded 50/50 responses. Fifty percent of the students expressed satisfaction and 50% expressed dissatisfaction with how I taught the course. The feedback from students regarding my instructional scaffolding approach provided insights into the value of the approach and reduced my poor end-of course student evaluations to one or two students. A scaffolding instructional approach administered appropriately allows the instructor to gradually decrease support as students' performance improves.

If you'd like to connect with Emily, or read more about her research and teaching practice, please contact her at [Emily.lewis@morgan.edu](mailto:Emily.lewis@morgan.edu).

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ACHE MidAtlantic supports the **North Carolina**

**Adult Education Association**

Fall 2010 Networking Event,  
**"Visioning 21st Century Adult Education: Best Practices."**

Friday, September 17.

[www.ncadulthoodeducation.org](http://www.ncadulthoodeducation.org).

**UPCEA Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference**

**"Changing Minds, Changing Lives"**

Regional ACHE members are invited to join this meeting at Penn State UP, University Park,

September 29 – October 1, 2010

A discounted price of \$300 is offered to ACHE members. Visit

[www.outreach.psu.edu/programs/ucea-mid-atlantic](http://www.outreach.psu.edu/programs/ucea-mid-atlantic)

ACHE MidAtlantic supports the first

**National Council on Accelerated Learning** (CAP) regional meeting

**"The New Definition of Learning: Seat Time vs. Learning Outcomes"**

October 7 – 8, 2010 at

Holy Family University, PA.

Visit [www.capnetwork.org](http://www.capnetwork.org)

**ACHE MidAtlantic Conference**

Planning is underway for March 2011

*Watch for announcements!*

If you would like to announce a professional development opportunity in the ACHE MidAtlantic newsletter, please email Jackie Martin at [martinj@neumann.edu](mailto:martinj@neumann.edu).

# PERSPECTIVES AND PRACTICES

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT & THE ADULT LEARNER

*Submitted by Carol Dougherty, M.S. LPC, Director  
of Career Development at Neumann University,  
Aston, PA*

The Career Development Office at Neumann University serves both traditional and adult learners offering support during career changes, preparation for career advancement, and more frequently this year, assistance in finding new employment due to a job loss. We offer convenient extended hours to accommodate the adult learner who often is on campus only in the evening. Further evidence of our commitment to adult learners is shown through the strong working relationship we have with the Division of Continuing Adult and Professional Studies, and the collaboration we show in workshop and professional development events.

Working with adult learners is both a delight and, at times, a challenge. The delight is reflected in the passion I see when meeting with someone who has set, and is committed to, achieving new goals. Perhaps, it is a rediscovery of a long-lost career dream to teach or to become a nurse, or even to complete a college degree that was left unfinished because of work and family obligations. The biggest career development challenge right now is assisting unemployed, or underemployed, adult learners with job searches, however, we are committed to supporting them through these trying

times. We also provide assistance with creating and updating resumes, practicing and refining interviewing skills, and demonstrating how social networking sites such as LinkedIn can be helpful in today's tough job market. We encourage our learners to network with their classmates who are often a source of career information and serve as potential job leads.

We are very proud of the collaborative development and implementation of a series of free professional development seminars called the Learning Exchange. We have always collaborated with the Division of Continuing Adult and Professional Studies and Alumni Affairs, but within the last two years we formalized our workshops into a series of free professional, academic and career development workshops available to students, their parents, alumni and the local community. Thanks to the shared efforts and talents of Neumann faculty, staff and alumni (who volunteer to lead the workshops) we have had over 150 people attend our workshops. This is most helpful in our collective practice of not only educating traditional and adult learners alike, but in helping them prepare and connect to a broad professional community for career development and advancement.

*To learn more about Neumann University's collaborative Learning Exchange program, right [click here](#). You may also contact Carol Dougherty at [cdougher@neumann.edu](mailto:cdougher@neumann.edu).*

### *It's easier than you may think to stay informed on issues of Continuing Higher Education*

- Review free, daily newsletters from [www.INSIDEHIGHERED.COM](http://www.INSIDEHIGHERED.COM)
- Read published articles in the *Journal for Continuing Higher Education*. Hard copies are mailed to ACHE members. Non-members can subscribe by Taylor & Francis 1-800-354-1420 or [Customerservice@taylorandfrancis.com](mailto:Customerservice@taylorandfrancis.com)
- Check out Academic Earth online at [www.academicearth.org](http://www.academicearth.org)
- Watch PBS' Frontline May 2010 video, [College Inc.](#)

We do not endorse these opportunities, but trust the opportunity to learn from other areas pertaining to higher education.

### *Anonymous Quotes for Inspiration*

*"Even a mosquito doesn't get a slap on the back until it starts to work."*

*"Kites rise highest against the wind, not with it."*

*"Every job is a self-portrait of the person who does it. Autograph your work with excellence."*



# A newsletter introduction to the ACHE MidAtlantic Board of Directors

The Association for Continuing Higher Education (ACHE) has membership throughout the United States & Canada. There are approximately 1500 individual members representing over 400 institutions and organizations. The MidAtlantic Region of ACHE encompasses the states of Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and West Virginia. Please feel free to contact your MidAtlantic board members and state representatives.

## 2010-11 ACHE MidAtlantic Board of Directors

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Involvement on the MidAtlantic board is encouraged. For information to volunteer, or suggest a friend or colleague, contact Dr. Tim Sanford [tim\\_sanford@unc.edu](mailto:tim_sanford@unc.edu) or your state representative.