

# Inter★STELA



The Online Professional Journal of  
the Saskatchewan Teachers of  
English Language Arts

Spring/Summer 2009

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*“Thought is the blossom;  
language the bud;  
action the fruit behind it.”*

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Editor's Address

Well, time sure has passed. I imagine that most of you are excited for the year's end. You've been administering AFLs and CAT tests, participating in PLCs, executing professional development plans and teaching classes. It always seems, especially in the rear view mirror, that time really is of the essence.

It is at this time that we release the Spring/Summer 2009 edition of Inter\*STELA's Online Professional Journal. First and foremost, I thank those who submitted articles for this edition. It isn't an easy feat to send in work to be reviewed and possibly be accepted or rejected. Thanks to you, this edition is full of opinion pieces, handouts (that have been used in a classroom) and book reviews- both directed to those who wish to find new resources and those teachers who are looking for professional development books for their own practice.

Take time to reflect. We are called to be reflective practitioners and so these following questions will not surprise you. Think back on this year. What did you do well? What didn't go as planned? What could you improve? What do you need to know? What do you need to inject into your practice? What were you successful at?

If anything, congratulate yourselves. You survived and thrived through this year. You taught. You shared your passion for reading, writing and creating. You gave of yourself to the students so that they in turn could explore who they were in your classroom. In this profession, it is hard to see the positive effects that we can have on our students, our classroom, our environment and the community at large. However, you did affect someone. Think of that student or colleague that came to you raving about their latest read, the neighbour or friend who told you something about themselves, or anyone who has shared their writing with you. These encounters are only the small blossoms that appear through the act of teaching, listening, speaking and learning. Look for and appreciate these blossoms.

Brandi Rolfe  
Inter\*STELA Online Journal Editor

## STELA Information

- The STELA membership has passed 2 new amendments to our constitution. First, our Vice- President position can be filled by any member of STELA. Second, each position will have a 2 year term attached to it to keep the executive fresh and lively.
  
- The positions are as follows:
  - President- Michael McGarity
  
  - Vice-President- OPEN
  
  - Secretary- Melissa Moen
  
  - Treasurer- Chris Beingessner
  
  - Membership Chair- Jennifer Oleson
  
  - Inter\*STELA- Brandi Rolfe
  
  - On the Horizon- OPEN
  
  - U of S Liaison- OPEN
  
  - U of R Liaison- Val Mulholland
  
  - NCTE Liaison- Michael McGarity
  
  - CCTELA Liaison- Brandi Rolfe





# STELA Membership

Membership runs from April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year to March 31 of the following year. As members you will receive:

- ★ Access to the fall and spring copies of the newsletter- InterSTELA
- ★ The annual "On the Horizon" students writing publication text
- ★ Notices of annual conferences
- ★ Access to attend the annual general meeting- held at annual conference
- ★ Access to run for office and put your name forward as regional representatives

To get membership with STELA, please fill in the form below and send the completed form and payment to the following address:

Jennifer Oleson  
S.T.E.L.A. Membership Chair  
c/o Campbell Collegiate  
102 Massey Road  
Regina, SK S4S 4M9



## S.T.E.L.A. Membership Application/Renewal Form

The following information will be used to contact members for renewal and membership drive purposes, to send out journals, and to forward conference and professional development opportunities information.

### Part I: MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Last Name, First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Teaching Certificate Number: \_\_\_\_\_

(To verify STF Membership for grant calculations)

### Part II: TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

Includes CCTELA (Canadian Council for Teachers of English Language Arts) and NCTE (National Council for Teachers of English) affiliation.

\_\_\_ Regular (\$20) \_\_\_ Superannuate (\$5) \_\_\_ Student (\$5) \_\_\_ Institutional (\$50)

I am enclosing \_\_\_\_\_ for membership fees.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_





# CCTELA Membership

## GIFT MEMBERSHIPS IN CCTELA!

This would make a great graduation, teacher candidate appreciation, birthday, holiday or end of year thank you gift! If you purchase a gift membership for a colleague, student, relative or friend, a beautiful gift card will be mailed to the new member on your behalf. To order a gift membership, please complete the form below and mail it along with your cheque or money order to:

**CCTELA**  
10-730 River Road  
Winnipeg, MB R2M 5A4

### GIFT MEMBERSHIP IN CCTELA

Please complete this quick and easy form and mail it directly to the Executive Director along with your cheque (payable to CCTELA in Canadian funds). Unfortunately, CCTELA is unable to accept payment by credit card or to use our website for payment purposes.

**Yes, I would like to send a gift membership in CCTELA to:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province / State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal / Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**My address is:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province / State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal / Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:**

- Regular Membership.....\$50.00
- Affiliate Status (Member of BCTELA, IFTE, ELAN, STELA, MATE, or ATEQ).....\$40.00
- Undergraduate Student (Include photocopied proof of status).....\$25.00

**For further information, contact the Executive Director, Linda Ferguson**

**E-mail: [cctela@mts.net](mailto:cctela@mts.net) Fax: 1-204-253-2562 Telephone: 1-204-255-1676**

## STELA Fall '08 Conference Recap

For those who attended STELA's Fall Conference, there were a great variety of English related sessions. Issues ranging from GLBT issues, books that are necessary to teach to open conversation about important issues, the appeal and necessity of including hip-hop in the classroom, using the arts for transformation, and the Saskatchewan Writing Project were presented. The sessions presented teachers with new innovative, refreshing and interesting viewpoints to bring into the classroom.

For those who were unable to attend, a couple of pages are devoted to informing you about some of the material covered in the sessions.

For your professional development, seriously consider attending the next STELA conference.

### Five Books You Must Teach- presented by Dr. Barbara McNeil

If we aren't discussing the important issues with our students, like sexuality, then our students are getting the information elsewhere. Most of us don't want to think about how much the students actually know. We need to look at using resources that create spaces to discuss these issues. Of course, you will need the support of administration and parents to use these books as teaching tools.

PAUL RUDITIS

### Rainbow Party

Some of the suggested resources include:

1. Rainbow Party by Paul Ruditis- This book talks about the planning of a 'Rainbow Party' even though the event never takes place.



If you would like to see  
the full document,  
you must have membership  
with STELA.

Please print off the form  
on page 4  
and send in your cheque  
to gain full membership  
benefits.