

### Missouri hosts an all-star conference

by Michelle Hanson (Missouri), MVAEA  
president

Evaluations have been tallied from the MVAEA annual conference (held with Missouri's state organization, MAACCE), and the overall consensus reflected what we saw and felt while we were there. The conference was a success!

The conference had a variety of sessions to attend covering topics for everyone. And according to the evaluations, our presenters were top-notch. From Neil Smith's opening remarks to Jim Lysaght's humorous and inspiring closing, our speakers simultaneously educated and informed our attendees. We trust that everyone went home with some additional knowledge to take back to their jobs.

Here are a few evaluation comments that sum up how many attendees felt:

- **Very good; teachers were impressed**
- **The conference was excellent and the presenters were great; thanks so much**
- **Looking forward to 2010 conference.**
- **Positive experience; friendly atmosphere**
- **Enjoyed the preconference and welcome reception hosted by Kansas**

If you attended the MVAEA conference, here's a quick review. If you couldn't make it, here's a look at everything you missed...

**KEYNOTE: NEIL SMITH**  
Neil Smith, former football



star for the Kansas City Chiefs, kicked off the 2009 MAACCE/MVAEA: All-Star Students and Educators Conference with an uplifting and inspiring message. Neil's message of

personal struggles and successes (from on as well as off the football field) were inspiring and humorous to our audience.

Neil credited a great deal of his success and motivation to teachers he had while struggling with learning disabilities and difficulties in school. Today, he is involved in community relations and believes strongly in giving back. Following his message, Neil signed autographs for conference participants.

#### **CAPSTONE: JIM LYSAGHT**

Jim Lysaght, a retired highway patrol officer who is now a magician, entertained the audience while delivering a positive message about the important roles we play in educating our students. He combined humor and magic

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**SUMMER 2009**

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**Is your MVAEA membership current?**

**If not, this could be your last notice  
regarding MVAEA and its newsletter,  
Happenings in the Valley!**

**Please see page 14 for details on  
keeping your membership current.**

# Kansas City hosts MVAEA conference

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within his message, so attendees left the conference in an upbeat mood after being entertained and enjoying some laughter.

## CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Thursday, June 4, was packed full of informative sessions. For every hour between 8:45 a.m. and 4:50 p.m., conference attendees had eight sessions from which to choose!

Sessions were offered in the following areas: Administration, Adult Education & Literacy, Afterschool Programs, Community and Higher Education, and Teaching Technology. As one highlight, Laurel Hall and Charlotte Knoche, Development Fund award recipients, offered sessions on their awards. *See page 5 for concurrent session summaries.*

## PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON

The President's Luncheon on June 5 welcomed eight past MVAEA presidents: Dr. John Henschke, Sharon Luhring, Dr. Elmer Miller, Greg Nolting, Terry Ramig, Mary Schaefer, Leslie Shore, and Phil Wegman. Thanks to all who could attend! *See page 4 for a picture.*

## PRECONFERENCE

Minnesota's Leslie User Shore led a very interesting and informative session to

enhance the listening skills of every participant. The session was interactive and fun! Exercises helped attendees become aware of listening barriers and then learn tips to help relieve those barriers. *See page 10 for details.*

## ACCOMMODATIONS

The Westin Crown Center did an outstanding job in accommodating us. Their "Heavenly Beds" were wonderful, and we enjoyed delicious food, beautiful atmosphere, and a terrific location. Attendees agreed it was a terrific place to hold a conference.

## KANSAS RECEPTION

On Wednesday, June 3, adult educators from the state of Kansas hosted a reception by the hotel pool in Kansas City. Food was available while an instrumental group played music and attendees networked with colleagues. It was a wonderful reception hosted by Kansas—and Kansas hosts shared information about the 2010 conference, which will be held in Wichita, Kansas, on June 14-17, 2010.

**IMMEDIATELY BELOW:**  
Gina Ganahl, MAAACE past president, leads cheers for this year's MVAEA/MAACE conference.

**RIGHT, TOP:**  
Dale Amunson and Sandy Eckert-Stewart network at the President's Reception (for leadership members) on the eve of the conference.

**RIGHT, BOTTOM:**  
Deb Sisco and Joe Thornton assist with conference registration.



## From the President

### We're off to a terrific start!

by Michelle Hanson (Missouri), MVAEA president

Well, MVAEA's 2009 conference was a success. Thank you to all who planned...and all who participated. The conference overview (pages 1-2) provides most of my message this time, but I look forward to the year ahead. Together, we can accomplish great things!

## From the Past President

### Reminiscing on a great year: 2008-09

by Steve Allison (Iowa), MVAEA past president

As I prepared for my final responsibilities as MVAEA president at the annual MVAEA conference in Kansas City, I reflected on everything that brought me to this point.

In the fall of 2006, I said "yes" and agreed to plan the 2008 MVAEA conference in Iowa. That led to accepting the position of president-elect at the MVAEA conference hosted by Minnesota in 2007. Even before officially being elected, the planning process was in full swing. I was privileged to work with a fantastic group of Iowans planning the MVAEA conference in the summer of 2008. The MidAmerica Center in Council Bluffs was a wonderful venue. At the end of the conference, the gavel was passed, and I assumed the duties of MVAEA president.

When I agreed to take on this responsibility, someone told me how great the people would be to work with. What they *didn't* tell me was just how great this experience would be. I have had the opportunity to work with MVAEA's wonderful board of directors. The knowledge and support this group has shared with me has been unbelievable.

I've always heard "time flies when you are having fun." Well, this life journey must have been a "blast," because these past months have absolutely flown by. There were challenges along the way—such as budget cuts, reduction in funding, and state

associations having difficulties. However, each challenge was seen as an opportunity for growth and was dealt with professionally by a dynamic and energetic MVAEA board. My sincere thanks to the board members for their expertise, energy, knowledge, and vision. They have helped to make my tenure as president an exceptional experience.

Earlier this summer, I had the honor of passing the gavel to Michelle Hanson from Missouri, the new MVAEA president. I joked at the conference in Kansas City how the time was quickly passing... "tick-tock, tick-tock." It truly did fly by. The organization is in good hands as Michelle begins her term as president and Joe Thornton from Kansas assumes the responsibility of president-elect and begins planning for the 2010 MVAEA conference that will be hosted by Kansas. Mark your calendars for June 14-17 and plan to travel to Wichita for another great conference. It seems like June 2010 is a long way off, but trust me...it will be here before we know it.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the membership of MVAEA for allowing me the honor and privilege of serving as president of your organization. This experience has surely been very rewarding, both professionally and personally. I have gained new friends and colleagues that will be with me far beyond my years in adult education. *Thank you!*



MVAEA Past President  
Steve Allison

# President's Breakfast offers valuable food for thought

by Leslie User Shore (Minnesota)

The MVAEA President's Breakfast on June 4 not only offered good food to eat, but wonderful food for thought. The discussion quickly turned to the change in the type of students we were seeing in all of our programs, and how that change of students was impacting how we teach. Below are some postsecondary statistics highlighting some of the demographic changes:

Between 2005 and 2016, **enrollment levels** are projected to increase:

**16% for undergraduate students;**

**21% for graduate students; and**

**31% for first-professional students.**

Between 2005 and 2016, **enrollments by race/ethnicity** are projected to increase:

**8% for students who are White;**

**29% for students who are Black;**

**45% for students who are Hispanic;**

**32% for students who are Asian or Pacific Islanders;**

**34% for students who are American Indian or**

**Alaska Native; and**

**15% for students who are nonresident aliens.**

The major influence for the ongoing shift in where students are going for their education is due to the ever growing number of nontraditional students. There are approximately 10 million

adult students today. According to the National Center for Educational Statistics, *Digest of Educational Statistics*, 2007, this number is expected to increase to 12 million by 2016. This growing number of adult students is proving to be a powerful force, especially since the number of traditional students is not expected to grow as quickly. Based on information from the National Center for Educational Statistics, *Digest of Educational Statistics*, 2007, it should rise by about 500,000 through 2016.

Even before the recession deepened, 40 states reported waiting lists for GED classes in the spring of 2008. "People had well-paying jobs, [and] they didn't necessarily need a high school diploma," says C.T. Turner, a spokesman for the GED Testing Service in Washington. "But now they're out of a job, and they realize most jobs require a high school credential these days." ([www.kfvs12.com/Global\\_story.asp?S=10534236](http://www.kfvs12.com/Global_story.asp?S=10534236))

The growth of the nontraditional student in MVAEA's member states has even changed the enrollment numbers and increase in degrees awarded to adult learners.

Here's what we can expect between 2004-05 and 2016-17:

- 1. Number of associate's degrees is expected to rise 9% overall; 2% for men; and 14% for women.**
  - 2. Number of bachelor's degrees is expected to rise 26% overall; 16% for men; and 33% for women.**
  - 3. Number of master's degrees is projected to rise 35% overall; 24% for men; and 43% for women.**
  - 4. Number of doctor's degrees is projected to rise 32% overall; 10% for men; and 54% for women.**
  - 5. Number of first professional degrees is projected to rise 30% overall; 11% for men; and 49% for women.**
- ([nces.ed.gov/pubs2008/2008060.pdf](http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2008/2008060.pdf); Projections of Education Statistics to 2016, U.S. Department of Education, December 2007)

So what does this all mean to MVAEA members and the educational environments in which they teach? First, because enrollment is increasing greatly for nontraditional students, educators must be aware of how each culture views education and educators. We must also be aware that success is measured differently in

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**Adult students... will make decisions on schools using different criteria than traditional students. These students are highly motivated! They need new or enhanced skills, and they will search until they find the right fit.**



Several past MVAEA presidents enjoyed the 2009 conference. FRONT (L to R): Terry Ramig, Bella Hanson, Sharon Luhring; BACK (L to R): Mary Schaefer, Leslie Shore, Greg Nolting, John Henschke, and Phil Wegman

## Concurrent sessions offer topics for every interest

Here's a look at some concurrent sessions held at this year's MVAEA conference:

**Social Bookmarking for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning**, a session by Charlotte Knoche and Greg Argo, explained how social bookmarking is a strategy for storing, organizing, managing, and—most importantly—sharing your favorite Web pages. Using a site like Delicious, for example, can simplify this for you. At the same time, it also permits you to find Web sites on your topic that others have found useful, plus you can access them from any computer—not just your own personal computer.

Laurel Hall's session—**Global Experience: Promoting Cultural Awareness in Rural Communities**—showed how a community education program in a rural area can offer the world to its community through global experiences. The idea was formed from the realization that many people in the community had never had the opportunity to travel or experience cultural events. It was also formed as they realized it is the daily activities and

practices, festivals, ceremonies, and events that weave the fabric of the society...and that those things are not something to be preserved or observed, but learned and practiced. At Laurel's institution, cultural awareness and exchange has become an important part of its community education program. As often as possible, the school offers classes, events, and opportunities to experience different cultures and heritages through food, art and dance, sports, and more.

**Advertising in the Down Economy** was led by Deb Turpin and Sandra Eckert-Stewart. Deb lead a discussion of steps to take when considering marketing efforts as budgets are reduced. Her main focus was on the use of technology and the Web. She went over tips to make your Web site more informative and visible.

**Community Education Live!** was an open-format session presented by representatives from Missouri, Iowa, and Kansas. Ideas and stories were shared that allowed for audience participation—including time to share examples and to ask questions. Brochures from different programs were also available to the audience.

**Concurrent sessions covered a variety of topics areas, including administration, adult education & literacy, afterschool programs, community and higher education, and teaching technology.**

## Trends will require adult educators to be prepared

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different types of cultures. We must get beyond the usual way of looking at our student's culture as ethnicity, race, and age, and realize there is a whole new set of subcultures in our classrooms. These cultures are diverse and based on a variety of factors, including generational differences, rural/suburban/urban, traditional/single parent/blended families, technologically plugged-in/not plugged-in, land-grant/highly mobile families, blue/white collar career, and been-here-forever/newly arrived immigrants, and others.

As a result of these cultural styles, learning styles, and modes of delivery, our classrooms must be prepared on multidimensional levels. Adult students will research schools, programs, job placement statistics, and reputation in their career field. They will make decisions on schools

using different criteria than traditional students. These students are highly motivated! They need new or enhanced skills, and they will search until they find the right fit. The reality is that education can no longer be non-profit in mindset, as every tuition dollar must be fought for.

Every dollar from government entities must also be fought for—on the city, county, state, and federal levels. In Minnesota, state leaders were invited to GED graduations to hear the moving stories of the diverse adult graduates. Kansas is working on advocacy by contacting federal U.S. representatives to let them know what educators are doing and how it impacts the health of their district and state. Kansas is also urging state and federal representatives to visit centers so they understand the impact of their decisions. These are models other MVAEA states should emulate!

# MVAEA presents annual achievement awards

by Tom Haskell (Iowa)

At each Missouri Valley Adult Education Association annual conference, the seven states of MVAEA recognize a person who has made outstanding contributions in strengthening adult education programming in their state. This is one MVAEA award that recognizes individuals who have been professionally active in the field of adult and continuing education. All seven states except South Dakota honored individuals at the 2009 Awards Banquet. What follows are the abbreviated remarks from the nominations.

## KANSAS AWARD

**Pam Cannon** (pictured below with Steve Allison) was recognized for her dedication to improving students' lives, her commitment to Kansas Adult Education, and her devotion to the 'one-person-at-a-time' tactic of solving the national economic crisis by elevating adult education's academic standards. She was hired as a part-time FastTrack instructor by the Butler Community College Adult Education/GED

program in September 2003. This was her first experience in adult education. Since then, she has willingly changed her instructional focus many times. She teaches at the main site and instructs at off-site locations.

One of her many instructional successes involved her intense efforts in facilitating a project-based learning class. Her small class of five students coordinated, secured donations, and implemented a "Day in the Park" for a small community in central Kansas

while learning math, writing and preparing for their GED. Approximately 300 children under age 10, along with their parents, attended this event, which was filled with games, races, a petting zoo, door prizes, hot dogs, popcorn, cotton candy, and snow cones.

For the past 18 months, she has helped the Adult Education program build transitional

bridges to postsecondary education for students by teaching its PASS (Pathways to Achieving Student Success) class. As she became a full-time staff member, she was charged with discovering and designing a class that teaches the skills needed for adult ed students to move beyond the GED and prepare for college. Some are the first in their families to complete high school as well as the first to enter college.

Being a lifelong learner herself, she encourages her students. She stays in contact with students even after they finish her class. They have her cell phone number, and she tells them to use it when they have questions, class or life problems, or just need encouragement.

Staff members who interact with Pam are complimentary, commenting on her cheerful attitude, beautiful smile, cooperation, commitment to the community, and the positive changes they see in students that Pam helps.

## MISSOURI AWARD

Missouri's award went to **Alice Hutschreider**, who also received the "Don Fancher Outstanding Educator Award" in her home state. *Her award was accepted by a Missouri representative (pictured below with Steve Allison).*

Alice is a corrections manager at the Algoa Correctional Center in Missouri. She earned the award due in part to the following achievements. The Department of Corrections began a "Great Hires" pilot program at Algoa Correctional Center in July 2007, aimed at helping offenders obtain employment after release. The program has successful and is expanding to all of the state's low and medium security institutions. Within the institutions, kiosks allow offenders to work on "Great Hires," the state's Workforce Resource Web site. Until this project, the offenders did not have



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# MVAEA AWARDS

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Internet access. This is the only site offenders can view. It provides access to thousands of Missouri jobs with matches based on skills and job titles.

As part of the partnership between the state's Department of Corrections and the Division of Workforce Development, staff members refer offenders (prior to their release) to the career center in the city where they live. These centers offer case management, career counseling, computer and job skills training, and job search assistance. Statistics indicate that offenders who do not find employment quickly upon release are more likely to return to prison than those who find work.

In the first quarter of 2008, the Department of Corrections schools tested 692 students for the GED, with 575 students successfully passing the GED. In addition to the GED, Department of Correction schools also provide career and technical programs in areas such as auto repair, building trades, culinary arts, cosmetology, business services, electronics, welding, nursing aid, professional gardening, diesel mechanics, electrical wiring, woodworking, and many others. Certificates for these programs include DOL, DOC, ServeSafe, ASME, COSMO State Board, and more. Data continues to reflect improved outcomes for offenders who have received re-entry services and education services.

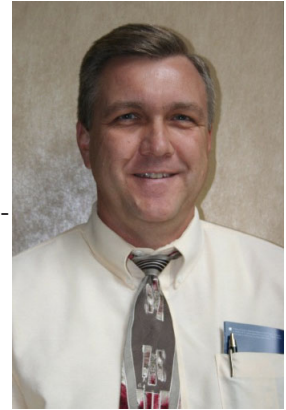
## IOWA AWARD

**Steve Allison** (*pictured above right*) has served as business coordinator at Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, Iowa, for the past 21 years. Over the years, Steve has been responsible for courses in the following program areas: management, computers, real estate, business partnerships, economic development, state-mandated programs, and even cosmetology. As an organized professional who constantly strives to meet or exceed the needs and expectations of his customers, Steve is currently co-chairing Indian Hill's Higher Learning Commission accreditation review team.

An active member of the Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning (IALL) and MVAEA for

many years, Steve believes in the value of lifelong learning and is always willing to help others. Steve has had many leadership roles in IALL, including serving on a multitude of conference planning committees, chairing the awards committee, and—in 2008—serving as co-chair of a successful joint conference of MVAEA, IALL, and the Iowa ABE Institute. Steve is the past president of MVAEA.

Having earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Iowa, Steve is a loyal Hawkeye fan. Beyond work, Steve has served on many civic and church boards and either referees or coaches volleyball, basketball, and softball games at the high school and/or college level. Steve enjoys golf, fishing and spending time with his wife, Barb. He is the proud father of Jessica, who attends Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tenn.



## MINNESOTA AWARD

**Nancy Herther** is her state organization's president-elect and chair for the MACAE fall conference. *Her award was accepted by Bella Hanson, Minnesota representative (pictured below with Steve Allison).*

Nancy was chosen as president-elect by the MACAE board after the office was unfilled almost six months into the year. Nancy was previously one of MACAE's three vice-presidents—VP for professional development. As president-elect, Nancy will chair the MACAE Fall Conference Planning Committee—a job that usually takes 12 months to perform and is done in addition to full-time paid employment.

In 2007, Nancy received the MACAE Martha L. Stanley Memorial Award, which is given to an outstanding Minnesota adult educator who embodies the attributes of Martha Stanley, who was community education director at St. Thomas University in St. Paul and an adult education leader

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# MVAEA presents annual achievement awards

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in her state before her death in the mid 1980s.

A MACAE member since the 1970s, Nancy has served on MACAE committees and the board of directors. She served as a representative for Metro Minnesota on the MACAE board of directors and has written numerous articles for MACAE publications. Nancy is employed full-time at the University of Minnesota as a sociology/anthropology librarian. She also assists students in the American studies and Asian American studies programs with their research projects. She teaches campus workshops and lectures on research strategies and writing papers. All in all, she annually serves 1,200+ learners at the University of Minnesota.



## NEBRASKA AWARD

**Anne Ausdemore** has demonstrated exceptional leadership and contribution in the areas of adult and continuing education. *Her award was accepted by Terry Ramig (pictured at left with Steve Allison).*

Serving Nebraska and MVAEA, Anne has been involved in adult and continuing education since 2004—and has contributed much in a short time. She jumped into action as state representative for MVAEA and ACEAN in 2005, and still serves on the MVAEA board. Employed by Northeast Community College, Anne works with many programs and is the contact person for several areas of community education and the Challenge Program. Her dedicated work ethic and gentle demeanor are among the best in today's workforce.

## NORTH DAKOTA AWARD

**Valerie Collins** was nominated using a clever “top 10” list. *Her award was accepted by Deb Sisco (pictured at left with Steve Allison).* However, here are a few “top 10” reasons she was so deserving:

- She is dedicated to doing the very best job with her students, no matter how much effort it takes on her part. She can have the same students multiple times and doesn't get impatient with their pace.



- She helps new staff members learn the ropes. She is innovative with new ideas and has developed personalized curriculum programs for her students. Smart Boards were implemented this year, and she used them for support of in-class lessons.

- Always prepared and giving duties her full attention, she ensures each student has enough time to become successful. Persistent amidst changes and obstacles in the Adult Learning Center program, she is flexible and understands adult education students bring many challenges.

- She lets students know she is proud of them when they reach their goals.

## mvaea's highest honor...

## FOUNDERS AWARD

**Karen Ulanski** (*pictured on facing page with Steve Allison*) is a strong and stabilizing leader in adult education within Kansas. She has been the director of the Kansas Adult Education/GED program in Paola for 11 years. In an attempt to help Kansas more efficiently utilize funding, she tripled her work load to also become director for the Osawatomie Adult Education Center in 2006 and the Ottawa Adult Education Center in 2007.

As the only director of three individual programs in Kansas, Karen is a firm believer in the team effort. Kim Kirk, a Paola instructor says, “Karen makes them feel a part of things...it is always ‘us.’” She juggles immense program responsibility, yet makes time for personal development through lifelong learning and civic responsibilities. At the local, state, and regional level, she is “Super Woman.”

As an active member of the Kansas Board of Regents Adult Education Advisory Board, she helps to establish policy for Kansas. Karen has made trips to other Kansas programs to provide leadership in program management/development so that they could better meet state standards. Karen willingly shares her expertise and helps others grow. In 2004, Kansas reduced the number of GED testing locations, naming the Paola Center as one of 20 regional testing

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# MVAEA AWARDS

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locations. Karen worked with surrounding programs that lost testing status to be sure GED testing was available for them on- and off-site.

For over five years, Karen has maintained the KAEA's credentialing database and distributed credentials for her state. This project has become like a second career for Karen. Karen currently serves as the MVAEA secretary. In 2005, and again this year, she mentored other Kansans as they have planned the Kansas/ MVAEA joint conferences.

Karen has frequently presented at KAEA conferences and has overseen conference registrations for many years. During her 11-year membership, she has held board positions as KAEA president-elect, conference planner, president, and currently is a past president of KAEA. In addition, she has served on numerous social/entertainment committees and nomination committees, and she facilitates door prize drawings and silent auctions.

A strong believer in lifelong learning, Karen has participated in the Kansas ABE Leadership Academy for the past two years and plans to continue through year three. Using the Leadership Academy and classes on her own, Karen's plans for the future are to obtain her doctorate and publish a book about adult education.

Locally, Karen is a respected community member. She strongly displays community involvement as past president (and current

secretary) of the Paola Kiwanis. For the past four years has been active and held board positions on the Miami County Community Leadership Committee. She is also on the board at a local homeless shelter, and she is a longtime member of the Lions Club. Her staff lovingly refers to her as "Madam Big Lion."

At the program level, Karen models her value for lifelong learning by helping students attain the goal of continuing the education. She is building a bridge for students to transition to postsecondary education and/or training and continually seeks scholarships and fundraising activities to help students transition financially.

Karen has been a member of MVAEA for eight years. In that time, she has actively recruited other Kansans, as well as her staff, to join MVAEA, and she has attended all MVAEA conferences. Even in these tough economic times, Karen advocates the importance of joining MVAEA and attending conferences.

If passion and devotion could win awards, Karen would have *many*. Her passion for what she does tends to be contagious. Both KAEA and MVAEA are better organizations as a result of Karen's participation and leadership.



## MEET YOUR MVAEA BOARD

Members of the MVAEA board met at the 2009 conference in Kansas City and will reconvene periodically throughout the upcoming year. **FRONT (L to R): Sharon Luhring, Michelle Hanson, Dale Amunson, Rhonda Jones, Terry Ramig; BACK (L to R): Tom Hall, Sue Choens, Steve Allison, Leslie User Shore, Deb Sisco, and Tom Haskell.**

## Preconference covers listening effectiveness

by Leslie User Shore (Minnesota)

An essential skill for an effective executive is effective listening. Listening is rarely taught because educators and trainers assume listening is tantamount to breathing—automatic.

Among the communication vehicles of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, listening is the most used and the least taught.

Effective listening, however, is a skill. Like any other skill, competency in listening is achieved through learning and practice. The scarcity of good listeners is self-perpetuating; if you didn't have good listeners to learn from and models to emulate, you probably didn't master this "master" skill.

Instead, you learned whatever passed for listening in your environment: distracted half-attention, constant interruptions, multi-layered, high-volume, and/or free-for-alls with little listening at all.

During this seminar, participants completed the *Listening Effectiveness Assessment Profile*. In a very interactive, experiential seminar, attendees discovered personal barriers to effective listening and learned how to mitigate listening barriers to make others feel heard.

They also learned how to integrate new listening skills from the telephone to the boardroom, and they discovered how much better informed they'll be about what truly is going with the people in their personal and professional lives. As a result, preconference participants left with a vastly improved life skill.



## HAVE YOU "HERD" THE NEWS?

At the recent MVAEA/MAACCE conference (hosted by Missouri), Kansas was the state (besides Missouri, of course), with the most members in attendance. Congratulations! Kansas will host the MVAEA conference next year.

## MVAEA names Development Fund Award recipient for 2009–10: Jim Schneider

by Rhonda Jones (Missouri)

The recipient of the 2009-10 Development Fund Award is Jim Schneider of Iowans Supporting Adult Literacy Today (I-SALT). He will use the award to fund a project entitled *Iowans Supporting Adult Literacy Today*.

The purpose of Jim's project is to help establish a non-profit organization to advocate for adult literacy education in the state of Iowa. This organization will include administrators, instructors, support staff, and students, as well as business and community members. The intent is for this group to serve as an advocate for institutional, state, and federal offices. As this year's award requirement, Jim will present at next year's MVAEA conference.

At this year's conference in Kansas City, Dr. Charlotte Knoche—last year's Development Fund Award recipient—presented on her project, *Social Bookmarking for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning* (see page 5 for a brief summary). Thank you, Charlotte!

We encourage you to consider projects for next year's award!

# MVAEA's silent auction raises nearly \$900 for adult education projects\*

by Dale Amunson and Tom Haskell (Iowa)

The silent auction held in conjunction with the MVAEA annual conference was very successful—raising **\$887** that was divided between MVAEA and the state organizations that had contributed to the auction. Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and North Dakota made contributions this year.

Auction items included books, gift baskets, wines, sport clothing, home décor, travel and picnic items, and tickets to some events. Rhonda Jones, development chair, brought numerous items in gift baskets from the St. Louis area. Many items were included



from the surrounding states and from the exhibitors attending the conference.

The auction items were of a very high caliber this year, with much competition amongst bidders for several of the items. As in previous years, the items that seemed to draw a lot of attention had to do with wines from the various states in the MVAEA area.

Also of particular interest were those that were produced by MVAEA members. Bidding was particularly lively over a couple of bottles.

Silent auction profits are split between MVAEA and the contributing states. MVAEA receives half the proceeds, and the other half is divided according to the percentage toward total income. This year MVAEA received **\$443.75**. Here's how the other states fared:

- Missouri received **\$343.50**.
- Iowa received **\$64.25**.
- Minnesota received **\$18.50**.
- North Dakota received **\$17.50**.

Just a reminder that the silent auction will be held in Kansas next year. You're invited to help MVAEA and your state by contributing an auction item and by bidding. We'll hope to see you in Kansas!

**\*Any MVAEA member can apply to use MVAEA Development Fund dollars by applying for the Development Fund Award to do a project. You are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to fund a project—one that not only will benefit you and your state, but which may also benefit members of other states, as well...within and beyond MVAEA.**



Pictured at left, Laurel and Jim Hall, who attended the President's Reception on the eve of the MVAEA conference. Hosted by Gina Ganahl, Missouri association president, the reception included both MAACCE and MVAEA boards, Conference Planning Committee members, and attendees from the Leadership Development preconference event. The reception was held in the presidential suite, which was beautiful and had a wonderful view of downtown Kansas City.



# STATE NEWS

## KANSAS

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

*submitted by Sue Choens*

**Adult education directors, coordinators, and administrators joined U.S. congressional officials for a teleconference in April.** Melissa Kay and Andrew Eck from Senator Pat Roberts' office and LaRochelle Young from Sam Brownback's office joined the call from Washington, D.C. Others present were Ann Emerson, a staffer from Sam Brownback's Pittsburg office, and Sheila Lampe, a staffer from Lynn Jenkin's Pittsburg office.

Neosho County Community College hosted the District 5, southeast Kansas participants, providing the technological resources necessary to make Washington, D.C. connections. The adult ed program directors and coordinators met a few days prior to the teleconference to develop talking points. Randy Kettler, NCCC adult ed director, was conference moderator. Key points emphasized were: 1. the outstanding performance of Kansas adult education in serving the citizens of the state, 2. the cost effective manner in which we accomplish our tasks, and 3. the fact that we are here and do a good job of developing the workforce (so we don't reinvent the wheel). Participants could comment and ask questions during this 30-minute conference.

It was obvious that the staff members in Washington felt it was a valuable learning experience. Those of us in Kansas were gratified to have our voices heard. Emerson and Lampe, local staff members of Brownback's and Jenkins' offices, talked with adult ed directors and coordinators after the conference and toured the Neosho County Adult Ed Center. It was a positive, profitable day. Those who participated recommend this type of advocacy.

**The southern half of District 4 held a video conference with U.S. Representative**

## NORTH DAKOTA

[www.dpi.state.nd.us/adulted/index.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/adulted/index.shtm)

*submitted by Tom Hall*

The North Dakota Association of Lifelong Learners hosts the MVAEA conference in Fargo on April 13-15, 2011. Hope to see you there!

## NEBRASKA

*submitted by Anne Ausdemore*

While [www.acean.org](http://www.acean.org) is no longer a valid Website, you may contact Anne or other MVAEA members from Nebraska at [anne@northeast.edu](mailto:anne@northeast.edu).

**Todd Tiahrt at Cowley College on June 9.**

Margaret Harris, WATC adult education director, was the selected presenter with talking points focused on the adult ed funding stream and the return on investment of federal funding. The Pittsburg Adult Education Center hosted a GED graduation ceremony and reception on June 7. **Kansas Senator Bob Marshall spoke to graduates and guests.** Other adult ed programs in Kansas are using events like this to encourage legislators to visit their programs.

**The Pittsburg campus of Fort Scott Community College has offered two free one-hour college orientation classes for adult education students.** Besides introducing students to FSCC and offering a taste of postsecondary education, this program helps to successfully transition students into certificate and degree programs. Staff has also provided students with information and assistance as they complete financial aid applications and explore educational options. Butler Community College and Butler Adult Education have successfully shared this transitional bridge to postsecondary for two years. Adult education students earn free college credit and experience what college life is like. As a result of the *Ready for College NEXT STEP* grant, several Kansas programs are forming similar partnerships with local community colleges and training providers.

**KAEA is implementing a statewide marketing initiative.** To develop adult education awareness at the state level, members are getting involved in activities such as:

1. Teaming up to meet with the Kansas Board of Regents president;
  2. Meeting with Kansas Governor Parkinson;
  3. Working on a "Student March on the Capitol" project;
  4. Getting Kansas Board of Regents Board members into our adult education centers; and
  - 5) Bombarding leaders with KAEA-designed postcards.
- All programs are submitting a 60- to 90-second video clip to the Barton Community College adult education director. The clips show students talking about the impact of these programs on their lives. These clips will be combined, edited, and linked to an interactive

*continued on page 7*

*continued from page 6*

Kansas map on the KAEA Website and the Kansas Board of Regents Website.

**The joint MVAEA/KAEA conference will be held at the Hyatt in downtown Wichita on June 15–17, 2010!** Set aside funds and plan to attend. The downtown area is a wonderful place for shopping, museums, cultural events, and walking.

## MISSOURI

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

*submitted by Rhonda Jones*

Held in June, the 2009 MAACCE/MVAEA joint conference was amazing success. More than 200 adult and continuing education professionals enjoyed a chance to network with colleagues from throughout the Midwest. They also enjoyed great food, inspiration from compelling speakers, and opportunities for professional development.

One highlight was the keynote by Neil Smith—a University of Nebraska All-American and Kansas City Chiefs' Hall of Famer—who shared his ambition in life, with perspectives from on and off the field. His inspirational message left participants with infectious optimism and a sense of purpose. In his capstone, Jim Lysaght spoke about "The Real Magicians" and combined humor and magic that kept participants entertained and also gave us a positive message to take home.

Next year's MAACCE conference will be at Tan-Tar-A in Lake of the Ozarks.

The Missouri Adult Education Professional Development Center has offered summer workshops across the state. Workshop topics include helping students with transition, looking at life beyond the GED, and transitioning in to the workplace. Directors will attend workshops in September that deal with the many changes in the look of adult education and literacy in Missouri.

## IOWA

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

*submitted by Dale Amunson*

The Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning will hold its annual conference at the Wildwood Lodge in Des Moines on Oct. 15-16. Our keynote speaker will be former Iowa Governor Robert D. Ray, who was governor of Iowa for several terms in the 1980s. He has held several influential positions

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since his governorship and will be a tremendous asset to the conference.

This year is also IALL's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary! We've created a special booklet highlighting past events and milestones, and we're planning a fun run. In addition, all previous presidents have been invited to the banquet on Oct. 15. Of the 35 past presidents, 30 are still living and are active within their communities. We'll have highlights from the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in Marshalltown, too.

Due to economic conditions, it was decided not to hold a preconference activity this year. The IALL board also agreed to cancel the semi-annual conference for administrative assistants scheduled for earlier in the year.

On another note, IALL and ABE Institute will join forces for a conference event in 2010. This will be a joint conference similar to the combined conference held in Council Bluffs in 2008. This 2010 joint conference will be held in Des Moines at the Holiday Inn on Merle Hay Road. We look forward to the upcoming conference activities and special events in the months and years to come.

## MINNESOTA

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

*submitted by Leslie User Shore*

Minnesota is gearing up for its November conference at St. Thomas University on Nov. 13-14! The featured speaker is Apostolos Georgopoulos. Attendees will learn about current brain research and how it is redefining what we know about learning across the lifespan. Our speaker's research topics include: 1. the interaction of brains as people communicate with each other one-on-one to better understand the brain in action in a dynamic environment, and 2. studying groups of older people to better understand—not just information processing in the brain, but the development of wisdom and expertise. The brain—our noggin, belfry, noodle, skull, dome, grey matter, mind, control center—is key to learning. This year MACAE celebrates and explores this amazing and critical area of vital importance to every adult educator and learner!

MACAE is also working on a new Website that will be more state-of-the-art with discussion threads available to all members to participate in, and others to read...and then join MACAE!

## MVAEA

Happenings in the Valley

*Happenings in the Valley* is published by the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association to provide news, information, and assistance to those interested in continuing education and lifelong learning.

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# CONSULTANT'S

## O Is your membership current?

R by Sharon Luhring, MVAEA membership services consultant

N **T**his post-conference issue is being sent to all current 2009-10 members, as well as the members from 2008-09. If you attended the recent MVAEA conference in Kansas City, Mo., your membership for 2009-10 was renewed.

E However, if you were unable to attend the conference and have yet to renew your 2009-10 MVAEA membership, please do so today so you will be included in the 2009-10 MVAEA directory and receive other great membership benefits.

R To renew your membership, visit [www.MVAEA.com](http://www.MVAEA.com) and click on "Join MVAEA." Next, click on "this form" at the bottom of the page. Please print out the form and mail it to me along with your dues. If you'd like a brochure for you or a colleague, please let me know. (See page 13 for contact info.)

At the June MVAEA board meeting, the board discussed the issues involved as a member retires and/or as their position changes due to the economy and budget constraints, and the need for an alternate home address. If and/or when a change occurs in your work status, please notify me! Then we can use your home information to forward information regarding upcoming conferences, newsletters, past presidents' luncheon events, awards, etc. For this reason, we ask that you please share your home address, phone number, and home email address along with work contact info so we may stay in touch. You may forward home information to me via mail (see page 13 for address/fax) or email at [sluhring@hickorytech.net](mailto:sluhring@hickorytech.net).

Thank you! We appreciate your support of MVAEA! Enjoy the remainder of your summer!

## Coming Up

**August 27**

Board Meeting; South Sioux City, Neb.

**October 16**

Deadline for *Happenings in the Valley*

**January 15, 2010**

Deadline for *Happenings in the Valley*

**March 19, 2010**

Deadline for *Happenings in the Valley*

**June 14-17, 2010**

MVAEA Conference; Wichita, Kansas

## Quoted...

Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else.

*Judy Garland*

I have found that if you love life, life will love you back.

*Arthur Rubinstein*

Never, never rest contented with any circle of ideas, but always be certain that a wider one is still possible.

*Pearl Bailey*

Nobody can give you wiser advice than yourself.

*Cicero*

There are three ingredients to the good life: learning, earning, and yearning.

*Christopher Morley*

## Missouri Valley Adult Education Association – Membership Application

**Membership Category (please check one)**

Individual (\$35)     Life (\$300)     Student (\$15)     Retiree (\$15)     Institutional\* (\$120)

New     Renewal

\*For institutional membership, please attach a list of up to four persons who will be part of the membership.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit this form and dues (payable to MVAEA) to Sharon Luhring (see page 13 for address info).