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WINTER 2008
vol. 2, no. 4

Summer is just around the corner! Iowa will host conference in July

by Steve Allison, MVAEA president-elect,
and Deb Goodall, IALL president-elect—
Conference Planning Committee co-chairs

Do you have summer vacation plans? How about mixing a little business with the family vacation? Mark your calendar now for the annual conference of the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association (MVAEA).

July 16, 17, and 18 marks the joint conference of MVAEA, the Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning (IALL), and the Iowa ABE Institute. Yes, the July date is different from the normal fall conference time, but we hope you'll consider traveling some **New Roads on the Journey to Lifelong Learning**.

The Conference Planning Committee is making great progress towards planning a very memorable conference at the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs, Iowa. We have chosen a wonderful venue for the conference, super hotels with all of the amenities, and a community that is excited about the prospects of adult educators visiting their town.

What's more, Council Bluffs and nearby Omaha, Neb., are great places for our families to do a little exploring of the local flavors while we are enjoying thought-provoking educational sessions and listening to quality speakers.

Our goal is to provide the adult education community of Iowa and surrounding states with a conference that will be memorable for all attendees. Council Bluffs is conveniently located right on the I-80 and I-29 corridor for those who like to drive, and has easy access to air travel if that's your pleasure.

Planning a joint conference is providing some challenges for all of the groups involved. We are changing the traditional times for both the MVAEA and IALL conference, and budgeting for 'off-track' conferences has been somewhat challenging for both organizations,

CONFERENCE FAST FACTS

- when?** July 16-18, 2008
where? Mid-America Center,
Council Bluffs
details? www.mvaea.org
www.iowall.org



Combined conference has much to offer

but we feel the benefits will outweigh the challenges. Some of those benefits include:

Participants will have the opportunity to network with their peers throughout the Missouri Valley's seven-state region instead of just their own state. (States represented include Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.)

The shared resources from the three separate sponsoring organizations allow us the opportunity to look at some very high quality speakers. Featured speakers will be coming from the East Coast and the South, as well as from the Upper Midwest.

With the joint conference, there will be a greater variety of concurrent sessions to appeal to the interests of all participants. We are planning more than 30 different sessions for attendees to enjoy. There will be something of interest to everyone.

The Mid-America Center (pictured on the cover and below) is a beautiful facility that will showcase the three organizations sponsoring this joint conference—MVAEA, IALL, and the ABE Institute.

The Council Bluffs area (including nearby Omaha) features a number of attractions that should be of interest to everyone, including families. A few examples include Bass Pro Outdoor World, Henry Doorly Zoo, state parks, casinos, historic districts, shopping of all kinds, and more.

The timing of the conference is different, so attendees can plan on making the conference a vacation and bringing the family. Go online to take a look at the Mid-America Center and learn more about where the conference will be held. We think you'll like what you see!

We are very excited about hosting this year's conference, and we are planning a very memorable experience for all who are willing to travel **New Roads on the Journey to Lifelong Learning** in Iowa.

ON THE WEB resources you can put to work right now

www.councilbluffsia.com
Check out this site to discover the many attractions you'll find in Council Bluffs, Iowa. You may be surprised at what you see!

www.midamericacenter.com
Visit this site to learn more about the outstanding facility that will host the 2008 joint conference that brings together MVAEA, IALL, and the ABE Institute.

www.omahanebraska.com
Just across the river from Council Bluffs is Omaha, Neb.—home to great restaurants, shopping, the Old Market, and more!



From the President

Immigrant adults as learners: Lessons from the field

by Leslie Shore (Minnesota), MVAEA
president

Having taught at the college level for a while, I assumed I was on familiar ground when I began teaching a class of 28 students (half of whom were immigrants) who were working on a bachelor's degree. Indeed the content was familiar, but the dynamic of the classroom and the needs of the foreign-born students were not.

My reflections on this experience led me to a series of questions that would have increased my effectiveness as an instructor had they surfaced before I met the class of learners. In light of the immigration trends from our member states shown below, I wanted to share my reflections with our member states (*see chart at right*).

1. What seem to be the major barriers to success for immigrant collegians?

First, they face the language barrier. This is not the "do they speak passable English" barrier, but the barrier that exists when we use idioms, similes, metaphors, provincialisms, and nomenclature that are unfamiliar to these students because they are based on implicit cultural assumptions and practices. Instructors may not realize that even a syllabus is infused with confusing vocabulary and assumptions of expectations. The assigned reading is filled with obstacles of this type, and the students may grasp only part of the knowledge available to them. It is unrealistic to assume everyone understands the question at hand.

Second, students from different countries may have cultural barriers that prevent them from asking for clarity from

the teacher. In some countries, teachers are held in such high regard that asking a question is asked is akin to disrespect. The student who wants to do well is left in a cultural quandary to go against personal cultural norms to get a needed answer, or try to guess what the teacher really wants.

Third, these students may have cultural barriers of a physical type. One of my practices is to shake each student's hand at the beginning of the first session of a course. It creates a bond and an accessibility between the student and me. Imagine my surprise when a student told me that his culture did not allow male-female contact except between husband and wife. There are

also countries where eye contact between teacher or a person of authority and a student is a sign of disrespect.

Fourth, students from all over the map are "all over the map" (another common idiom!) on a continuum between individualism and collectivism, uncertainty avoidance (which is the degree the culture tolerates ambiguity and uncertainty), and long-term orientation versus short-term orientation. In each instance, deeply set cultural values how learners perceive the teacher, how they respond to different teaching styles, and how they process education itself.

continued on page 4

| STATE | % CHANGE 1990-2000 | % CHANGE 2000-2006 | LARGEST GROUP |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Nebraska | 164 | 33 | Latin American |
| Minnesota | 130 | 30 | Asian |
| Missouri | 80 | 28 | Asian |
| South Dakota | 77 | 24 | European |
| Iowa | 110 | 23 | Latin American |
| Kansas | 114 | 29 | Latin American |
| North Dakota | 29 | 10 | Asian |

What should learn about teaching immigrant students?

continued from page 3

“EDUCATION IS A SOCIAL PROCESS. EDUCATION IS GROWTH. EDUCATION IS NOT A PREPARATION FOR LIFE; EDUCATION IS LIFE ITSELF.”
John Dewey

2. What do these students want their teachers to understand about them?

First, immigrants often have made multiple sacrifices to obtain their education. As is true with native-born adult learners, they have families and full-time jobs while attending classes. Most of my immigrant students, however, had two to three jobs, slept four hours a day, were taking a full course load, and were paying for their education as they went so as not to get into debt—even if that took money from basic needs. They did these things while living in homes with multiple families who relied on one other for support, often in the absence of extended families they left behind.

Second, immigrants do not take any part of the education process for granted. They have a high level of understanding of the value of education, and therefore demand nothing less than the best from themselves. They are quick learners and will absorb the information if it is presented in a way that they can grasp it.

3. What do these students want from their teachers?

First and foremost, assume nothing. If an assignment is late, don't make the assumption the student doesn't care. If the assignment misses the mark, don't assume it is because the student is lazy. What these students want most is feedback—immediate, specific, and straightforward feedback. The learning curve with immigrant students tends to be remarkable. Feedback on one assignment is immediately put into place in the next assignment. Within the 13 weeks of my course, I had students move from grades of “D” to “A” due to regular, specific, applicable feedback I shared.

4. Why is it our responsibility to understand the immigrant student?

Each student in our classroom deserves the same professional level of education. Unlike students with physical and mental disabilities who are visible or documented, immigrant students have invisible barriers that we don't know about and they don't recognize as being

obstacles to effective learning. Our awareness of these barriers can make all the difference.

5. What are specific things that teachers can do to prepare themselves for a classroom filled with immigrant adult learners?

First, find out where each of your students is from and do some quick research into the cultural norms they carry about the educational process. Also, find out about the syntax of their native language.

Second, have each student write a two-page summary to describe their country of origin, identify what is important to them, and demonstrate their writing style. Important information about learning style and command of English surfaces from this simple practice.

Third, personalized immediate feedback is essential for writing assignments, in-class participation, and small group work. Try to gain it whenever you can.

Fourth, when setting up group projects, insure that there is at least one student in the group who is inclusive-minded and can invite participation from everyone. I do not assign group projects until the third week of the course so that I can watch small group exercises and find inclusive-minded students.

As educators, we try to provide students with learning outcomes that give them skills and knowledge they can apply in their personal and professional lives.

Each student is equal in importance; as such, it is our duty to do all we are capable of to proffer our content in a way that each student can excel if he or she so desires. Immigrant students bring tremendous richness to the classroom. Their perspectives, values, and desire to learn are inspiring for the instructor as well as for other students.

Immigrant students also understand something about education that makes teaching them both an honor and a challenge. John Dewey said it best: “Education is a social process. Education is growth. Education is not a preparation for life; education is life itself.”

MVAEA FOUNDER'S AWARD APPLICATION

The Missouri Valley Adult Education Association Founder's Award may be made annually to an individual(s) who has/have served MVAEA with such distinction that his/her achievements are widely acknowledged by adult education colleagues throughout the seven state region.

Award Criteria

The MVAEA Founder's Award shall be given selectively for:

1. A record of notable accomplishment in the recipient's field.
2. A record of outstanding service to MVAEA in such capacities as participation in annual conference programs, membership on committees, service on the executive board, editing the MVAEA publications, or holding other elected and/or appointed office. Please remember, these are only examples. All contributions to lifelong learning are important.
3. A record of active and consistent professional support through longstanding membership and regular attendance at annual conferences.

Nomination Information

In order to nominate a person, please submit the information requested below and describe how the candidate meets the above criteria regarding MVAEA and his/her profession. Due to the significance of this award, nominations should be given considerable thought. Up to two 8-1/2 by 11 pages of typed information may be submitted as support material.

Deadline

Nominations must be submitted by **APRIL 15** to: Mary Schaefer, Fargo ALC, 315 N. University Drive, Fargo, ND 58102-4337. Nominations may also be sent electronically to schaeferm@fargo.k12.nd.us

Nominee Information (please print)

Full Name: _____

MVAEA Membership: ___ Past Member ___ Current Member ___ Approx. membership years

State Affiliation(s): _____

Employer(s)—Current and/or Former _____

Narrative: *Please attach up to two pages of supporting information.*

Nominator Information (please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

MVAEA MEMO

TO:
All MVAEA Members

FROM:
Mary Schaefer,
Past President

RE:
MVAEA Founder's
Award

Please submit your nomination for the 2008 Founder's Award using the form at left. This award is the most prestigious award the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association presents to a fellow member.

Your completed nomination form should be sent via mail or e-mail to Mary Schaefer by APRIL 15.

Direct all forms, along with any questions, to:
Mary Schaefer
Fargo ALC
315 N. University Dr.
Fargo, ND 58102

ph. 701-446-2814

schaeferm@fargo.k12.nd.us

How will *you* support the silent auction?

by Dale Amunson (Iowa)

STATE-SPECIFIC SILENT AUCTION POSSIBILITIES

A bottle of fine
Missouri wine

A book by Garrison
Keillor from
Minnesota

A bottle of
Templeton Rye
from Iowa

Fine flour from
Kansas

A side of beef
from Nebraska

Memorabilia or a
book about
Sturgis from
South Dakota

A truck load of
snow from
North Dakota

Has there ever been a time when you really wanted an auction item and then, at the absolutely last minute, someone outbids you to win it?

What will you bid?

Thanks to a joint conference this summer, there is great potential for MANY very nice items at the silent auction. And this time, you may have the opportunity to get what you really wanted without having someone outbid you at the last minute.

This is a call to one and all to start giving some very serious thought to the joint silent auction to be held at the joint conference of MVAEA, IALL (Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning), and the ABE Institute. In the past few years the caliber of items has increased dramatically at both the IALL and MVAEA conferences.

More specifically, it has been noted that wines and specialty items have been going for premium prices. And as you all know, that generates revenue for our Development Fund. In turn, the Development Fund can maintain and increase its ability to fund your much desired and greatly needed projects for adult learners in your state and throughout the

entire region.

What will you bring?

Because the conference is being held at an usual time of year, and because its location (in Council Bluffs) is close to a number of very nice venues, why not plan to attend this year?

Better yet, why not consider bringing with you that very tempting auction item (or two)? And why not make it such a highly desirable item that others might even overbid? Every state represented by MVAEA has unique and useful items that folks from other states rarely see but strongly desire. So what will you bring? There are a few suggestions at left just to get you started.

What will you win?

Please consider how you can make this year's silent auction exciting and challenging to bidders. And, please keep in mind that a portion of the proceeds generated by your contributions benefits not only MVAEA, but also returns to your own home state for its individual Development Fund.

That means everyone wins—and you have even more good reasons to choose a special item (or two) and contribute to the 2008 silent auction.

See you there at the bidding table!

If you are doing something that works, let others know!

If you need assistance with a challenge, let others help!

If you want to speak out on an adult education topic, let others hear!

***MVAEA Happenings in the Valley* is the forum.**

Let's work together to make this publication even stronger in the year ahead. Contact your state representative or Shari Kiple (kiplecomm@cableone.net) with story ideas, articles, photos, and anything else of potential interest to MVAEA members. We look forward to hearing from YOU!

DEVELOPMENT FUND APPLICATION

CONDITIONS OF THE AWARD

1. The 2008 Development Fund Award will be announced at annual MVAEA conference festivities in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on July 16-18, 2008.
2. Each recipient will have up to one year to complete his/her project and will receive up to \$1,500 for expenses upon submission of an itemized statement at the conclusion of the project.
3. A summary narrative, findings, or conclusions, along with any handouts or created materials, will be submitted to MVAEA's board for review and shall henceforth become the property of MVAEA.
4. An article summarizing the project will be submitted to *Happenings in the Valley* for publication.
5. The recipient will submit a proposal to present a session about the project at the MVAEA annual spring conference in the following year.
6. Recipient must be a 2007-08 member of MVAEA and continue with membership through 2009.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The application shall consist of the completed form below as well as a brief description or discussion of the following components:

1. Description of the activity
2. The purpose of the activity
3. How the activity is to be implemented
4. The need for and the impact of the activity on adult education practices
5. The anticipated outcome of the activity
6. A general description of the budget
7. Any innovative aspects of the activity

DEADLINE

Please return completed application form by **May 1, 2008**, to the following address:
Rhonda Jones, 5078 Kensington Ave., St. Louis, MO 63108

Title of Project: _____

Location of Project _____

Applicant Name _____

Organization/Institution _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (Work) _____ **(Home)** _____

E-mail Address _____

Information for Second Applicant (if applicable)

Applicant Name _____

Organization/Institution _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (Work) _____ **(Home)** _____

E-mail Address _____

Please attach 1-2 sheets in response to the application requirements noted in this newsletter.

Do you have a great idea?

by Rhonda Jones

If you have a great idea and need some money to make it happen, apply for the 2008 MVAEA Development Award! The MVAEA Development Fund is looking for new and innovative projects and/or interesting research in an area related to adult education. Simply fill out the application (at left) and apply today!!!!

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

To apply for the grant *or* to learn more about this opportunity, please contact Rhonda Jones, MVAEA Development Award chairperson, in the following ways:
314-367-5000 *phone*
314-367-3057 *fax*
Rhonda.Jones@slps.org *e-mail*

Too old for college? Never!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Whether you are a rookie or a veteran in the field of adult and continuing education, it can be easy to get caught up the "day to day" of our work. I hope this article can help you step back, just for a moment, and reflect upon the topic of adult education from a new perspective—that of a new student. Share it with your own adult students, if you'd like. And take heart in knowing that your efforts benefit a cause that is truly noble.

by Pam Sissons

Adults returning to college, technical, or trade schools after many years may not know what to expect. The good news is, it's good news!

Are you considering returning to college, trade or technical school after having been out for some time? Are you thinking about continuing education, professional development, or simply personal enrichment, but you are hesitating? If so, the question has probably crossed your mind. "Am I too old for college?" The answer is a clear and ringing "No!"

There are several reasons why you may fear returning to a college or learning environment. For baby boomers particularly, and for women age 50 and beyond, after having been away from school for many years, some of the questions adult learners have include:

- Will I feel out of place?
- Will I have anything in common with the other students?
- Will I be unable to keep up academically?
- How will I balance my job and family life?

As legitimate as these fears may be, don't let them get the best of you. Between 1970 and 1993, the number of students aged 40 and older increased by 235%!

Today's academic environment is geared toward satisfying the needs of all students. At

many universities, classrooms without a significant percentage of older students are now firmly in the minority.

If you are considering a traditional campus setting, you can be fairly sure that when you get there and take a look around, you will see many other re-entry or professional development students just like yourself. If you're taking an online course, there is typically an introduction session at the beginning where you will get a sense of the age and background of your classmates.

Like many older students, you may have a job, home, and family commitments to consider. There is no doubt that the personal demands on you may increase, but re-entry to college as an adult has never been easier. There is extensive assistance available from student loans and childcare, to flexible scheduling and online courses and universities. You may even be able to find weekend classes to fit your schedule.

Earning a college education is more important than ever, and the benefits are well worth the effort. Your ability to earn a higher income and opportunities for career advancement may depend upon it. Having a degree may enhance flexibility and longevity in the career area of your choice.

In today's college and universities, adult learners are a welcome and valued addition to the student body. Particularly in the undergraduate and vocational areas, students often have career and life experiences that benefit everyone. Earning a degree is a shared experience. Remember that you bring to the table a desire to learn and valuable life experiences that could never be replaced by academics alone.

Pam Sissons is a wife, mother, and grandmother who just (yes, just) earned a bachelor's degree in English and professional writing in 2007. She is a contributor to the online resource, Suite101.com.

THE "ADULT PERSPECTIVES" COLUMN WAS CREATED BY Jim Lightbody, former *Happenings in the Valley* editor.

phone
402-435-3662

jimdonna
@aol.com

RESOURCE FOR THIS ARTICLE:

<http://continuingeducation.suite101.com/>

WANT TO BE AN ADVOCATE FOR ADULT EDUCATION?

This summer's preconference workshop is for you!

by Mary Schaefer (North Dakota), MVAEA
past president

We are excited to announce that Art Ellison, New Hampshire state director of adult education and chair of the policy committee for the National Council of State Directors, will present a preconference workshop prior to this year's joint conference sponsored by IALL, MVAEA, and the ABE Institute.

"Politics in Adult Education" will be the title of this year's valuable preconference workshop, and it will be held Wednesday, **July 16, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.** in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Read on for details!

The Presenter: Art Ellison

Art Ellison is a native of Vermont. He obtained his bachelor's degree from Earlham College, his master's degree from Northwestern University, and his Ed.D. from the University of Massachusetts. He has worked as a road construction laborer, high school social studies teacher, community organizer, local adult education program director, and—since 1980—as the New Hampshire State Director of Adult Education.

Art is proud of his work as one of the founders, executive producer, and actor with the Northern New England Literacy Theatre. Art has also done extensive political volunteer work and has been a successful advocate for the field of adult education. In 2005 he received a Literacy Leadership Award from the National Coalition for Literacy for his leadership in restoring a \$363 million-dollar cut in funding to adult education proposed by the Bush administration.

Currently the Chair of the National

Council of State Directors of Adult Education Policy Committee, Art manages the Single Point of Contact network established by state directors to build support for adult education funding and policy in Washington, D.C.

Art's favorite quote and guidance for life comes from the great labor organizer, Mother Jones, who said, "Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living."

The Workshop: The Politics of Adult Education

This interactive workshop will focus on the role that adult educators play as effective advocates with — and for — their students. Each workshop participant will receive a 50-page package of materials that have been used in successful state level advocacy campaigns around the country.

The workshop will focus on the important elements for building an effective advocacy network for adult education at the state level. Topics of discussion include: understanding the system, identifying the important players, the importance of timing, constructing the message, agreeing on the message, identifying the message carriers, finding allies, building the network, and the importance of political literacy in adult education.

Workshop participants should leave with enhanced advocacy skills and an increased commitment for their work in adult education.

All adult educators—both instructors and administrators—are encouraged to attend this critical workshop. Participants will gain the tools they need to be successful advocates for adult education at a state level.

Mark your calendars for July 16 and plan to attend!

ON THE WEB

resources
you can
put to work
right now

www.ed.state.nh.us/education/index.htm

This is the Web site of the New Hampshire Department of Education, where Art Ellison (our speaker for this summer's preconference) is employed.

www.ed.gov/
The United States Department of Education maintains this site, which features online resources, grant information, and more.



STATE NEWS

MISSOURI

www.maacce.org/

submitted by Michelle Hanson

The Missouri Association for Adult Community and Continuing Education (MAACCE) board meet Jan. 18 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in downtown St. Louis. Discussions were held and committees assigned to work on strengthening advocacy efforts and developing guidelines for—and/or assessing interest in—starting a memorial fund.

Category reps reported on what was new in their categories.

The AEL Administrators group hosted and facilitated a regional drive in meetings this fall. They discussed 1. what programs were doing on the local level, 2. what their organization needs to do to increase effective advocacy efforts, 3. what they need to do at the department level, and 4. what their organization needs to do at the legislative level. Their findings will be listed in the *MAACCE Exchange Newsletter*, which is submitted electronically and can be found on the MAACCE Web site: www.maacce.org.

The Community Education category will hold a preconference event at this year's conference. They are setting up “meet and greet” sessions throughout the state on Feb. 29. They will also release a survey to members to find out professional needs, specialized areas represented, and volunteer and staff needs.

The Department of Corrections began a pilot program at Algoa Correctional center in July 2007 aimed at helping offenders obtain employment after release. The program has been deemed a success. The Great Hires Project will be expanded to all of the state's low and medium security

WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

Let us know!

We'd like to

include your

news in the

next issue of

the MVAEA

newsletter.

Submit your

articles or photos

to the *Happenings*

in the Valley

editor using

the information on

the facing page of

this issue.

institutions. During the first quarter of the 2008 fiscal year, the Department of Corrections schools tested 692 students for the GED with 575 students successfully passing (83% pass rate). They also continue to provide a number of Career and Technical Programs to inmates.

Our Higher Ed category is working on recruitment efforts to increase membership and provide exciting learning opportunities at the conference.

MAACCE is hosting and cosponsoring the 2008 National COABE conference this year in conjunction with its state conference. The conference will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in St. Louis on April 28-May 1 with *Show Me Success: Empowerment through Diversity* as its theme. There will be many concurrent session topics covering a number of different interests for professional development. Visit www.coabeconference.org/ for details about the national conference.

MINNESOTA

www.mnmacae.org

submitted by Janet Jacobson

MACAE held its annual conference on Nov. 9, 2007. Titled *The Future Starts Today*, the conference featured a keynote presentation by Terilyn Turner, former director of St. Paul Community Education and currently an organizational consultant in education and business. Turner took “A Sentimental Journey Back to the Future,” examining the future of adult education by reflecting on the past.

Concurrent sessions included presentations on advising strategies for adult learners, meeting the needs of diverse adult learners, and new Internet tools such as blogs, social bookmarking, and pod casts.

In the afternoon, attendees played a rousing game of “Deal or No Deal”, learning about MACAE history and

continued on page 11

continued from page 10

winning valuable prizes! The conference closed with a discussion of the new shape of adult education and MACAE's role in that process.

The conference also featured the presentation of annual awards for outstanding contributions to the field of adult education. Nancy Herther received the Martha L. Stanley Memorial Award for her long-standing service to the field of adult education.

The Harlan Copeland Award for Excellence in Programming was awarded to Gene Scapanski of St. Thomas University and to Elizabeth Erhardt Regimbal of Cardinal Stritch University for their work with cohorts.

Four individuals received the Lucile Fisher Award for Outstanding ABE/GED Learner: Mary Coy, Brian Miller, Victoria Rozinova, and Amina Dahir. North Hennepin Community College/Osseo Adult Basic Education Program, along with South Central College/Mankato Adult Basic Education Program won the Outstanding Adult Education Program Award for their program to help learners transition from ABE to postsecondary education.

The Publication Award went to Victor Klimoski and Lucy Brusic for their work in publishing *Practical Thinking*, a journal of MACAE and Minnesota Independent Scholars Forum. Joseph Kimbrough, MACAE's eighth president, was posthumously awarded the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association Outstanding Adult Educator Award.

Leone Snyder, professor of education at Capella University, took over from Leslie Shore as the new MACAE president for 2008.

IOWA

www.iowall.org

submitted by Kim Oaks

While most of us have been enduring the everchanging weather conditions of Midwest winter, some members of our association have been thinking warm, sunny July!!!

Looking ahead to the 2008 Joint Conference of IALL, MVAEA, and the ABE Institute,

members of the Conference Planning Committee has been very busy locking in presenters and confirming details for the conference.

Mark your calendars to be at the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on July 16-18 to attend this excellent conference.

Iowa's own Deb Goodall, IALL president-elect, and Steve Allison, MVAEA president-elect, have done a wonderful job organizing their committee to plan concurrent sessions that will appeal to all areas of adult and continuing education.

Since the conference is being planned for summer, Deb, Steve, and their committee are also working with Council Bluffs Visitors Bureau to come up with a list of activities and attractions for those who would like to take advantage of the great location and turn this into a family outing as well as an educational experience. Be sure to watch for details, as preconference publicity is in the works.

In other news, the IALL board will host the Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning's "Day on the Hill" at the Iowa State Capitol Building in Des Moines on Wednesday, Feb. 20. For many years, this has been an ongoing tradition to allow IALL members to meet with state legislators from our state. It has been a great way to promote IALL and to exchange ideas about adult and continuing education in Iowa. This event is open to all IALL members—not just board members! We will talk with legislators over a continental breakfast at the Iowa State Capitol Building.

NORTH DAKOTA

www.dpi.state.nd.us/adulted/index.shtm

KANSAS

www.thekeaa.org

NEBRASKA

www.acean.org

SOUTH DAKOTA

www.sdall.org

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

ORNER MVAEA announces changes to membership directory

by Sharon Luhring, MVAEA membership services consultant

There have been many changes in the MVAEA membership directory. For example, e-mail addresses and work addresses have changed for a number of members. Be sure to watch for an electronic update to the membership directory!

And, as always, I invite you to contact me—or any Board member or state representative—with your ideas on how your organization may better serve its members. We look forward to hearing from you.

Coming Up

April 10, 2008

Deadline for *Happenings in the Valley*

July 16, 2008

MVAEA Preconference (see page 9)
Mid-America Center
Council Bluffs, Iowa

July 17-18, 2008

MVAEA Conference (see pages 1-2)
Mid-America Center
Council Bluffs, Iowa

Did You Know?

- | | |
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| Feb. 9 was the day Hershey's Chocolate was founded (in 1894) | March 29 marks the day Coca-Cola was invented (in 1886) |
| Feb. 11-17 is Random Acts of Kindness Week | April 2 is Children's Book Day |
| Feb. 13 marks when the first U.S. public school was founded (in 1635) | April 11 is Dandelion Day |
| Feb. 21 is National Sticky Bun Day | April 13-19 is National Library Week |
| March 5 is Stop the Clocks Day | April 21-27 is TV Turnoff Week |
| March 10 was when the first phone call was ever made (in 1876) | April 22 is National Jelly Bean Day |
| | April 24 is Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day |

Quoted...

"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one."
— *Malcom Forbes*

"A good teacher is like a candle; it consumes itself to light the way for others."
— *Author Unknown*

"Knowledge is a process of piling up facts; wisdom lies in their simplification."
— *Martin H. Fischer*

"Only the educated are free."
— *Epicetetus*

Missouri Valley Adult Education Association – Membership Application

Membership Category (please check one) **New** **Renewal**
 Individual (\$35) **Life (\$300)** **Student (\$15)** **Retiree (\$15)** **Institutional* (\$120)**

*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 form and dues, payable to MVAEA, to Sharon Luhring (please see page 11 for contact information).