

Happenings in the Valley

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PLEASE NOTE:
This is a special,
16-page **double**
issue of Happenings!
Watch for the next
issue of the
newsletter in late
summer/early fall.



MAY 2004
volumes 1 and 2

MVAEA conference capstone speaker asks, "What's your legacy?"

by Kathy Peterson, MVAEA capstone presenter

What do Mother Theresa, Tiger Woods, Thomas Edison, and Mom have in common? They are all leaving (or have left) a legacy. Do you have to be famous to leave a legacy? Absolutely not! What's important in life isn't what you win or what you have; it's what you leave behind. **There are four traits that legacy-leavers possess:**

Attitude and Confidence.

People with a positive attitude: are in better health, have more friendships, are happier, have more energy, achieve more, feel inner peace, and are more successful. *People with a negative attitude:* worry, have more sickness, have more tension, experience more boredom, have more dissatisfaction, are frustrated frequently, and have more poverty. Your positive or negative attitude is your choice. Which will you choose?

Determination and Persistence.

If you were in the basement toying with a filament and bell jar, trying every idea you'd heard about, read about, or dreamt about to keep that filament glowing—all to no avail—how many experiments would you pursue before calling it quits? Ten? Fifty? How about 1,000? What person in his right mind would try (and fail) 10,000 times until he was successful? Only someone with a massive amount of determination and perseverance: Thomas Edison.

Communication.

It's not just what you say, it's also what you do. We judge ourselves on our intentions and others

on their actions. You can speak very loudly by not saying anything at all. For example, 7% of a message is the words you choose, 38% of a message is your tone of voice, and 55% of a message is your body language. Your facial expression sets the tone for an interaction with someone (especially someone you don't like). Keep in mind, it's less work to smile than it is to frown. To be exact, it takes only 16 muscles to smile but 37 muscles to frown.

Dream Big Dreams.

A man came back to his old school in Harlem to speak to a 6th grade class. He'd come a long way and was very successful. As he was listening to those before him, he realized these students had little hope for the future. He threw out his notes made a promise to them that day.

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ABOVE: Kathy Peterson makes a point during her captivating capstone address at the 2004 MVAEA conference in Sioux City, Iowa. *Photo by Tom Haskell*

From the Past President

Moving on...

by Terry Ramig (Nebraska), MVAEA
past president

How quickly time passes! It seems only yesterday I was approached with the idea of accepting the position of MVAEA president-elect, and now my term as president has concluded. It has been an experience of learning, growing, changing, and now, moving on.

While the year went quickly, I believe we faced serious challenges as a board. As professional development dollars are trimmed from educational institutions' budgets, organizations such as ours suffer in membership. Because much of each year's budget is based on conference proceeds, and conference attendance has fallen in recent years, so has the treasury. Thanks to the dedication and determination of MVAEA's board, we found positive solutions to difficult situations.

One of the greatest changes in membership services was moving our newsletter—*Happenings in the Valley*—to online delivery. This decision did not come easily. It had actually been considered for many months before we followed through with the project. It continues to be a "work in progress," but we are committed to perfecting the process

to provide you with timely and useful information in the world of adult and continuing education within our seven-state region and beyond.

I thank you for the privilege of serving MVAEA as president. It was a year I'll never forget! Working with the amazing individuals who serve on the MVAEA board has been one of the greatest opportunities of my life. I look forward to the year ahead—serving as past-president, planning the Leadership Academy, and seeing you in Kansas next spring at our annual conference!

Best wishes to you all!



**ABOVE: Terry Ramig (left) transfers her MVAEA presidency to Evan Bensley.
Photo by Tom Haskell**

MISSING: Adult Perspectives

FROM THE EDITOR:
To provide more complete MVAEA conference coverage, two regular newsletter features (*Adult Perspectives* and *On the Web*) are combined in this issue. Please see page 16 for great links to sites with perspectives on working with adult students. Site suggestions are provided courtesy of Jim Lightbody, MVAEA's former newsletter editor and a source of inspiration for *Adult Perspectives*.

CONSULTANT'S

ORNER

by Sharon
Luhring,
membership
services
consultant

If you have not yet renewed your 2004 MVAEA membership, please take the time today to complete the membership registration form located on the back page of of this newsletter or on the MVAEA Web site at www.mvaea.com. Please note that effective April 1, 2004, the individual membership rate is \$35 and the student/retiree rate is \$15.

We would like to include all members in the 2004-05 MVAEA membership directory, which should be available in June. Watch for your copy!

Thank you for being a member of Missouri Valley Adult Education Association. Please contact us if you have any suggestions regarding our service to you.

From the President

Let's work together to grow MVAEA

by *Evan Bensley (Iowa), MVAEA president*

The 2004 MVAEA Conference has come and gone. As Conference Planning Committee chairperson, I can say it has been an exciting and rewarding experience. Our Conference Planning Committee became a close and motivated group whose members did an outstanding job! The entire event ran smoothly. For those MVAEA members who were unable to make it, you missed a great educational opportunity.

The venture began with the Leadership Conference on Wednesday afternoon. This was well-attended and featured an excellent speaker—Nancy Wegge. The state of Kansas hosted the hospitality session that evening at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center. Kansas members used their great sense of humor, gifts, and plenty of food to lure everyone to next year's conference. Reception attendees were transported to and from the reception on an antique-style bus trolley. Following the reception, many MVAEA members chose to take advantage of an opportunity to see a performance by the Peking Acrobats at Sioux City's recently restored Orpheum Theatre. I've heard rave reviews on the show.

The MVAEA conference began on Thursday morning with an impressive opening flag ceremony by the Sioux City Air Guard. Mark Johnson, our keynote speaker, provided an inspirational and patriotic start to the conference. Multiple tracks ran both days to provide topics covering all areas of adult education.

On Friday, the conference concluded with a wonderful message from Iowa's own Kathy Peterson. She left us with much to think about during our drives home.

My term as MVAEA president officially began on April 2. Terry Ramig did an outstanding job of directing the

organization this past year! I will strive to make the organization a successful regional resource for adult educators.

A few weeks ago, most of the Iowa community college adult educators met in Ankeny, Iowa, for a one-day session on state reporting. As I looked out on the 130+ in attendance, I couldn't help wondering why more of them are not members of MVAEA. If we had those kinds of numbers in every state, MVAEA would truly be a force with which to be reckoned.

During the MVAEA conference in Sioux City, I talked with many people from other states. A few members have told me how their state organizations have weakened and fragmented into several specialized areas of adult education. MVAEA was established in 1938 to encompass *all* areas of adult education. I would love to see the state organizations become strong again and realize the vast untapped potential of MVAEA as a larger umbrella organization.

As an MVAEA member, you will find a dedicated group of board members willing to serve your educational needs. Bend our ears every now and then if you have a unique idea to contribute to the organization. You may e-mail me anytime! (Please put MVAEA in the subject line so it is a top priority!)

I wish Kansas the best of luck organizing the 2005 MVAEA conference. I had a wonderful time at their conference six years ago, and I am sure next year's conference will be just as strong. Be sure to mark your calendar for March 16-18, 2005, when we'll meet in Overland Park, Kansas. I will see you there!

P.S. As a reminder to those who missed the conference—please renew your MVAEA membership! We will work hard to make the cost of your membership rewarding to you and your profession.

Welcome, friends!

MVAEA welcomed many new members to its 2004 annual conference in Sioux City. We hope our new members had a great time at the conference and learned a lot, too! If you have questions about your MVAEA membership or the services it provides, please contact Sharon Luhring, our membership services consultant, using the phone and e-mail address on page 15.



MVAEA announces Development Award recipient: Kansas community college will use funds to publish Hispanic newspaper

by Michelle Hanson (Missouri), Development Fund Committee chair

The ESOL teachers and students at the Barton County Community College's Center for Adult Education in Great Bend, Kansas, have a vision to continue publishing the Spanish newspaper, *El Heraldo*.

In 2003, the newspaper was published for five months through the assistance of a community Hispanic committee. Because the committee lost its sponsor, however, the newspaper was put on hold. Great Bend's ESOL teachers and students will use a gift from the MVAEA Development Fund to revive this important link to the Hispanic community.

Instead of only posting announcements in stores catering to the Hispanic community, the Spanish-language newspaper will become a vital bulletin board and inform Spanish-speakers of happenings in the community.

In addition, the paper will encourage ties between Hispanic and Anglo populations. Hispanics are hungry for information, and this newspaper will help demystify such things as community and education rules and policies.

The ESOL students have already taken steps to integrate into the community by taking English classes. The *El Heraldo* project will help teach English and social skills; it will also

encourage ownership and confidence to the ESOL students and the Hispanic community. More importantly, the Hispanic students and community will have a direct link to the English-speaking business community

One important connection has already been made through the local English newspaper. The *Great Bend Tribune* has agreed to print the newspaper with the proceeds from advertising. Circulation translates into more interest among advertisers, thus increasing the financial success for the local paper. The paper hopes to have this project self-sustaining in 12 months through advertisement and circulation.

This project is headed by Doris Reile, a full-time ESOL instructor at the Barton County Community College; Marina Uribe, a bilingual translator and paraprofessional; and Darylee Flynn, who directs the Center for Adult Education at Barton County Community College. These professionals will present at the 2005 MVAEA conference in Overland Park, Kansas. Their presentation should help explain the need for a project like this, and it should outline the steps to get it off the ground and make it self-sufficient.

Congratulations to Barton County Community College and its Center for Adult Education! MVAEA extends you the best of luck as you make your vision a reality.

President's Breakfast identifies challenges and sparks conversation among leaders

by Greg Nolting (Missouri), outgoing past president

Representatives from each of MVAEA's member states got together for a breakfast meeting on April 1 at the MVAEA conference in Sioux City. During the breakfast, the group members talked about the challenges each state is facing. There was great discussion about a variety of topics, and there seemed to be one very common thread: there is too little money to go around. There was also some discussion about the membership in the respective states and the challenge of getting them to conferences. As true leaders, those in attendance offered several solutions. Leaders from each of the states headed home knowing that they were not alone in their challenges and that they have a network to call upon if needed.



**Photo by
Tom Haskell**

**To learn more
about MVAEA
Development Fund
awards (including
information on
how to apply),
please contact
Michelle Hanson
via e-mail at
mhanson@marshallschools.com
or visit MVAEA's
Web site at
www.mvaea.com.**

Association honors past presidents at conference luncheon



Twelve Missouri Valley Adult Education Association past presidents were on hand for the MVAEA conference luncheon held in their honor on April 1 in Sioux City.

FRONT ROW: From left—Howard Hovland, South Dakota; Barbara Stephens, Iowa; Blenda Marquardt, Missouri; Sharon Luhring, Minnesota; Bella Hanson, Minnesota; Kathy Brock, Iowa; John Henschke, Missouri

BACK ROW: From left—Joe Mildrexler, Kansas; Greg Nolting, Missouri; Phil Wegman, Kansas; Mona Callies, Nebraska; and Claudette Reichert, South Dakota

Photo by Tom Haskell

Healthy bidding raises revenue

Silent auction benefits MVAEA's member states

by Dale Amunson (Iowa), MVAEA state representative

The Missouri Valley Adult Education Association has enjoyed another good year culminated by the 2004 annual MVAEA conference in Sioux City. As with all past conferences, one of the highlights was the silent auction, which is a fundraising activity for the MVAEA Development Fund.

Again this year, we had an incredible variety of very nice items. Having an array of high-quality items can often lead to some heated bidding in the final moments of the auction. That happened again this year—especially with the nice selection of wines and other items that were donated.

The total revenue for the auction was \$867.00. Of this amount, MVAEA receives \$433.50. The remaining revenue is being divided among the states based on a percentage of the revenue gained from their respective items. In other words, the states that had the most donations will be the states earning the largest percentage of revenue. Overall, the silent auction helps not only MVAEA, but also each state that donates items to the auction.

The proceeds from this event will help

fund another MVAEA Development Grant in the coming year. In addition, the interest earned from the Development Fund account also goes to support the Development Fund. MVAEA's portion of the proceeds (\$433.50) will start drawing interest toward the next Development Fund award.

It's not too soon to start thinking about how *you* could use the MVAEA Development Fund (of up to \$1,500)

to help fund a project for your organization or institution. There are many needy projects out there, but each year only a handful of entries solicit Development Fund resources. Apply, apply, apply!

For more information regarding the MVAEA Development Fund (including details on applying for an award), please contact Michelle Hanson via e-mail at mhanson@marshallschools.com or visit MVAEA's web site at www.mvaea.com.

The following is a listing (by state association) of the income each state generated for its contributions:

Iowa (IALL)	\$131.25
Minnesota (MACAE)	\$124.75
South Dakota (SDALL)	\$ 68.00
Missouri (MAACCE)	\$ 45.50
Kansas (KAEE)	\$ 33.00
North Dakota (NDABSE)	\$ 27.00
Nebraska (ACEAN)	\$ 4.00

Thank you to all who contributed to the success of this year's auction!

MVAEA Leadership Academy worked real “magic”

by Greg Nolting (Missouri) and Nancy Wegge

Participants in the 16th annual MVAEA Leadership Academy formed teams, bonded, named their team, set goals for the session and created team cheers—all in the first five minutes! And things never slowed down!

Dr. Nancy Wegge facilitated the session. Nancy is an MVAEA member, past MAACCE president, and a professional speaker and trainer who travels the nation incorporating adult education techniques and magic into her presentations. Fifty-one MVAEA members from all seven states participated in this year’s academy, with the theme of “Creating Teams That Work Real Magic.” Nancy provides the following summary for those who missed the session, but you’ll have to use your imagination to envision the wonderful magic, group activities, jokes, and prizes!

What is a team?

A team is a group of trained individuals, empowered to implement decisions, who are

working together in an interdependent manner to achieve shared, common goals. From this starting point, participants in the Leadership Academy applied all their experience, knowledge, enthusiasm and creativity to the team effort. Laughter and team cheers erupted

throughout the session as participants shared their expertise to address six concepts.

What are the advantages of a team?

Brainstorming resulted in a long list of advantages for the employee, company and customers. Teams benefit from utilizing the variety of skills, abilities, ideas, judgment and

feedback of all team members. The result is shared accountability and ownership for the work done. In your work situation, can you list three reasons a team is the best option? (The flower trick showed how teamwork makes benefits bloom!)

What is the team’s purpose?

Every team member should know and be able to articulate answers to questions such as: Why are we working together as a team? What do we want the results of our efforts to be? When do we expect to accomplish this goal? Can your team agree on a performance objective that is specific, measurable and timebound? (The chocolate trick would help your thinking!)

What makes a winning team?

Academy participants discussed the appropriate interaction between the two main factors that determine a team’s effectiveness: tasks and relationships. Tasks are actions done to accomplish goals. Relationships are actions done to build interpersonal dynamics.

What actions and behaviors will help your team achieve optimal results and where can training have the greatest positive impact?

(Oh, the newspaper trick!)

What makes a positive team environment?

Empowerment, communication and trust were identified as the most important components of a positive team environment.

What are the barriers to empowerment your team must address?

How can your team establish effective communication?

What are the keys to building and maintaining mutual trust?

When you’ve answered these questions you’ve really hit the target trick!

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ABOVE: Nancy Wegge shares tips on how to work magic with teams at the Leadership Academy. *Photo by Tom Haskell*

Senator pledges commitment to education

FROM THE EDITOR: The Iowa-based MVAEA Conference Planning Committee invited U.S. Senator Tom Harkin to the MVAEA conference in Sioux City. While he was unable to attend, he sent Bev Schroeder as a representative to read his message, which appears below.

Dear Friends:

Welcome to Sioux City for the Missouri Valley Adult Education conference. I appreciate your invitation to this multi-state event and regret that I am unable to be with you, because the United States Senate is in session.

The title of your annual conference is "Embark On a Learning Expedition," and it reminds us that education is a lifelong journey. The need for a highly skilled and flexible workforce has never been greater, and we must re-evaluate how we think about education. Education is a process that begins at birth and continues for a lifetime.

The Congress is currently working on the budget for the upcoming year, and the outlook is not good. The Bush Administration's budget provides a 3% increase for education, which is the smallest in eight years. I am deeply

disappointed by the budget request, especially since it comes at a time when schools are struggling to meet the mandates of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Our nation was founded on the ideal that no matter who you are, where you were born, or how much money your parents earn, you can be a success. This is the American dream, and the key to realizing this dream is education. Please be assured that I will do what I can to increase the federal investment in education this year, but it is an uphill battle.

In addition to the budget, there are also several other pieces of unfinished education business, including the Workforce Investment Act, the Adult Education Act, the Higher Education Act, and the Carl Perkins Vocational Education Act. As you can see, it is going to be a very busy year on the education front, and your participation is essential.

Once again, welcome to Sioux City. Enjoy the conference and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Tom Harkin
United States Senator



ABOVE: Bev Schroeder reads a letter from U.S. Senator Tom Harkin at the 2004 MVAEA conference. Photo by Shari Kiple

Questions are key to working magic with teams

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How do effective teams get work done?

Attendees discussed the importance of assigning roles, establishing ground rules, resolving conflict, and taking action.

Can your team agree on the qualities of a great team member?

What ground rules would you expect your team to establish?

How can your team use problem-solving to resolve conflict?

What techniques will help your team make a decision and take action?

(Ask a Leadership Academy participant how

the detergent box trick got work done!)

How should teams wrap up?

Effective team wrap up should include the 6 R's—Reflect, Report, Reward, Recognize, Renew, and...Remember teams are not an end in themselves. Teams can achieve improved performance and results. Well organized teams can out-perform a collection of individuals, and they can make a *positive impact* on the team's institution or organization.

What is your personal action plan to work real magic with your team?

(Leadership Academy participants' action plans created a beautiful string of pearls—they worked real magic!)

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Dr. Nancy Wegge, Positive Impact, by phone at 800-646-1295, via e-mail at nancy@nancywegge.com, or on the Web at www.nancywegge.com.

MVAEA presents Achievement Awards

In January 2004, Kansas reduced the number of GED testing locations and named Paola as one of 20 regional testing locations. Karen Ulanski has worked with several surrounding programs that were cut to ensure GED testing was available both on- and off-site

Diana Cohen loves to travel! In the fall of 2003 she spent two weeks in Israel, visiting educational institutions, social agencies, the Hadassah hospital, and the Knesset (government). Although normally an avid bicyclist, she gave camels a try! Diana decided to leave camel riding to Laurence of Arabia, and she returned to attend the MACAE fall conference, where she connected with MACAE colleagues and managed the silent auction.

On April 1, Missouri Valley Adult Education Association held its annual awards ceremony at the Sioux City Convention Center as part of its 2004 MVAEA conference in Sioux City, Iowa. Tom Haskell served as host for the evening's ceremonies.

Kansas—Karen Ulanski

Karen has directed the Kansas Adult Education/GED program in Paola, Kansas, for the past six years.

Karen...

- Is a member of numerous state taskforces and committees
- Participates on the Community Leadership Committee for Miami County
- Serves as president of the local Lions Club (her staff lovingly refers to her as “Madam Big Lion”)
- Travels statewide to assist in program management/development
- Has been a member of KAEA for six years
- Serves on KAEA's Standards Council, which places her on the KAEA board that is responsible for credentialing
- Has been a member of MVAEA for the past three years
- Actively recruits other Kansans (including her staff) to participate in MVAEA
- Is currently KAEA's vice president
- Helped organize the Kansas hospitality reception at the 2004 MVAEA conference in Sioux City
- Remains committed and enthusiastic about planning the 2005 MVAEA conference that will be held in Kansas

Minnesota—Diana Cohen

Diana became involved with MACAE when she was a graduate student at the University of Minnesota. She has been employed at the University of St. Thomas for more than 14 years. Currently she works with MBA students through the University of St. Thomas' College of Business.

Diana...

- Completed her master's degree in adult education in 1986 while working full-time at the University of Minnesota
- Completed her doctorate in educational leadership from the University of St. Thomas in 1999
- Served as MACAE's 2003 president
- Helped establish (and regularly maintains) the MACAE's current website
- Served as the Minnesota MACAE representative on the MVAEA board.
- Has been an enthusiastic and dedicated MACAE board member—always willing to help any committee meet its goals
- Recruited new MACAE board members among her colleagues at St. Thomas

Missouri—Alice Jensen

Displaying enthusiasm and undying dedication to her students, Alice has taught nursing students at Maryville University for 15 years. She has utilized principles of adult education and has done an excellent job of incorporating prior learning experiences of her students within a very participative classroom setting.

Alice...

- Serves as a role model by mentoring new faculty at Maryville University
- Has been the MAACCE liaison to AAACE for the last four years
- Served on the conference planning committee for MAACCE
- Has presented workshops on critical thinking, using games in the classroom, and stress reduction at three separate MAACCE conferences
- Was part of the Conference Planning Committee for the recent AAACE national convention in St. Louis, Mo., where she also presented a workshop on using games in the classroom
- Has presented workshops on critical thinking at the national level in Memphis, Tenn.; Lincoln, Neb.; and Sonoma, Calif.

A woman of tireless energy, Alice Jensen has a remarkable ability to relate to students of varied interest and backgrounds. In Maryville University’s RN-BSN program, she helps students design individualized clinical experiences and classroom activities that meet their interests *and* their desires for independence as mature adult learners.

Accepting the award for Alice Jensen was Michelle Hanson

Nebraska—Michael Turner

Michael has worked for Nebraska Wesleyan University for 11 years; he is currently the associate dean of its University College, which houses undergraduate adult degree programs, three graduate programs, Wesleyan Honors Academy, and targeted outreach staff development programs for K-12 teachers.

Michael...

- Earned a master’s degree in adult and continuing education from the University of Nebraska
- Completed his undergraduate studies as a nontraditional student at Nebraska
- Has served in leadership positions on boards of many adult and continuing education associations
- Co-chaired the 2003 MVAEA/ACEAN conference held in Omaha
- Has been a member ACEAN since 1992 and has served in several board positions

- Was ACEAN president in 2003-04.
- Served as regional chair and a national board member for Region VIII of the Association for Continuing Higher Education (ACHE) from 1999-2001
- Has been a member of ASTD-Lincoln for 11 years and was its president in 2001
- Received an Outstanding Service Award from the Nebraska LEAD Program at the University of Nebraska in 2001
- Was honored with the President’s Award from ACEAN for his work on the 2003 MVAEA/ACEAN conference
- Was given the Spirit of Leadership Award from ASTD in 1999
- Received the 1995 Ken Mattran Outstanding Graduate Student Award from ACEAN

North Dakota—Bev Enger

A dedicated teacher of adults, Bev serves as coordinator of the Sheyenne Valley Adult Basic and Secondary Education Program. She is a lifetime certified English teacher and taught for several years prior to her involvement with adult education.

Bev...

- Is a true professional who is involved with her respective professional associations in a variety of capacities
- Serves as the secretary of NDABSE, North Dakota’s state association
- Becomes quickly involved in professional associations related to her field

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In his rare spare time, Michael Turner enjoys reading, cooking, and hunting during the fall with his two labs, Jack and Chase.

Bev Enger is a teacher who puts her students first. For example, she has held graduation programs to recognize all levels of student accomplishment. In recent years during the summer months, she has attended ESL and other professional development courses to enhance her abilities as a professional educator.



AT RIGHT: From left to right, Michael Turner, Nebraska; Bev Enger, North Dakota; Diana Cohen, Minnesota; Barbara Stephens (Founder’s Award—see page 10), Iowa; Lana Reich, South Dakota; and Karen Ulanski, Kansas.

Achievement Awards honor MVAEA members from various states...for various reasons

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- Has attended all state adult education meetings and conferences since she began her career as an adult education teacher
- Has become very involved with many activities at the Sheyenne Valley center, including include open houses, sophomore visitations, promotional activities, advertising in the local media, and the negotiation process for all center staff
- Works with an active advisory committee consisting of local business and agency representatives, and other professionals.
- Represented adult education as South Dakota developed “indicators of quality” for the Even Start program.
- Expanded adult education services in her community by establishing a GED program at the county jail
- Developed a pre-GED transition ESL CLASS (the first in South Dakota)
- Started an adult education/literacy program at a homeless drop in center
- Partnered with the Presentation Sisters Hispanic Outreach Ministry to provide English classes to the Hispanic population
- Established a partnership with the Dakota House, where adult education classes will be provided on-site to homeless Native American families
- Was part of the team that developed South Dakota’s first Even Start Family Literacy Program in 1990; this program is still in existence and now annually provides 100 families a year with adult education and early childhood activities
- Played an instrumental role in fostering ties with Lutheran Social Service’s Refugee and Immigration Program and Volunteers of America, which received the 2004 Outstanding Community Partner Award for that relationship

South Dakota—Lana Reich

Lana has been involved in adult education for more than 15 years. She began as an adult education instructor, moved to part-time teacher, became part-time teacher coordinator in 1990, and then began her work as a full-time administrator. Since 1998 she has served as the education director at Volunteers of America’s Career Learning Center.

Lana...

- Has served on the SDALL board of directors as well as the MVAEA board
- Is a member of the Sioux Falls Chamber School and Business Committee.
- Serves on several South Dakota task forces

Iowa member honored

MVAEA presents Founder’s Awards to Barbara Stephens

Adult education has been a part of Barbara Stephen’s work life since 1972, when she began as a part-time instructor for a consumer and homemaking program at Southwestern Community College in Creston, Iowa.

In July 1975 she became the ABE/GED coordinator and organized ABE/GED classes throughout eight counties. She performed the duties of department chair for the adult and continuing education at Southwestern for several years before becoming its director in 1999. She maintains the ABE/GED role but is

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In her spare time Lana Reich enjoys spending nearly all weekends from mid-April to mid-October at her family’s summer lake cabin.

The MVAEA Founder’s Award recognizes notable accomplishment in the recipient’s field, a record of outstanding service to MVAEA, and a record of active and consistent professional support to the organization.



ABOVE: From left—Dale Amunson, Founder’s Award recipient Barbara Stephens, Greg Nolting, Tom Haskell, and Betty Wallace. Photo courtesy of Betty Wallace

Kansas hosts reception at Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center



Reception attendees enjoyed great food (AT LEFT) and guided tours (ABOVE) at this year's hospitality reception, which was held at Sioux City's Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center. Photos by Tom Haskell

Kansas officially invited MVAEA members to attend the MVAEA conference on **March 16–18, 2005** in Overland Park, Kan. Held at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center in Sioux City, the Kansas-hosted hospitality reception featured delicious food, informative



tours, door prizes, and gift bags with everything from wheat recipes to sunflower seeds! The reception also provided attendees with networking opportunities and a lot of fun!

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also involved in providing new and innovative ideas through coordination and planning in other fields. Barbara has actively supported the Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning (IALL) and MVAEA for nearly 30 years.

Barbara...

- Has been a member of IALL and MVAEA since 1975
- Served on the IALL board of directors in 1980-82
- Served as IALL secretary during 1986-87
- Was IALL's conference chair/president-elect in 1989
- Led IALL as its president during 1990-91
- Has been actively involved in countless planning activities—including this year's MVAEA conference
- Has been part of several ad hoc committees for adult education initiatives
- Served as Iowa's MVAEA state representative from 1991-95
- Was president-elect of MVAEA in 1996-97
- Chaired the Conference Planning Committee for the 1997 MVAEA conference that was held in Sioux City (The theme was *Lifelong Learning in the Heartland*.)
- Planned (and participated in) MVAEA's yearly Leadership Academy while serving as MVAEA president and past-president

- Was chairperson and secretary of the State of Iowa ABE Coordinators
- Coordinated two 310 projects involving competency-based GED and ABE for senior adults
- Was a trainer for two ABE staff development in-services in Kansas
- Served as a member of the statewide ABE promotion committee
- Was selected to participate in the "Public Policy Education Project-Solving the Budget Crisis" focus group sponsored by Iowa State University in 1992
- Chaired the adult deans and directors' white paper committee to develop the report, The Role of Community College Adult and Continuing Education in Iowa's Workforce Development Centers
- Has served as secretary and president of the Adult Education Deans and Directors in the state of Iowa

Thoughts from the nominating team...

It is with the utmost admiration and support that the nominating team of Betty Wallace, Tom Haskell, and Dale Amunson has provided these comments in support of Barbara Stephens. Barbara has demonstrated to IALL, MVAEA, and the profession that she is a leader of distinction and a worthy recipient of the 2004 Founder's Award.

Barbara Stephen's leadership abilities have provided tremendous growth for so many people in adult and continuing education. Always eager to educate others about lifelong learning, she strives to develop new program ideas and encourages staff members to expand their horizons. Barbara's abilities to listen, provide constructive comments, and follow through on tasks make her a definite leader in her field. These qualities (along with genuine pleasantness) have created sincere, lasting friendships.

MVAEA leadership transitions to a new year

by Shari Kiple (Iowa), newsletter editor

Because MVAEA's fiscal and membership "year" runs from conference to conference, the Association's outgoing board members met on March 31 at the Sioux City Convention Center to finalize conference plans and work through remaining business from the 2003-04 year.



On April 2, MVAEA's new board members assembled at the close of the conference. Led by President Evan Bensley, the new team will meet face-to-face this summer to plan for another great year in Missouri Valley!

Thank you to everyone who served on last year's leadership team *and* to those who will serve MVAEA in the year ahead.

AT LEFT: Front row, from left—Terry Ramig, Evan Bensley, Sharon Luhring, Joe Mildrexler
Second row, from left—Barb Eisenmenger, Tom Haskell;
Third row, from left—Dale Amunson, Mona Callies, Greg Nolting
Fourth row, from left—Michelle Hanson, Lana Reich, Deb Sisco
Back row, from left—Diana Cohen, Bev Davis, Les Lang

BELOW: From left—Dale Amunson, Sharon Luhring, Kathy Petz (MVAEA president-elect), Barb Eisenmenger, Terry Ramig, Evan Bensley, Bev Davis, Phil Wegman, Diana Cohen, Les Lang, Deb Sisco, Lana Reich, and Michelle Hanson.

Photos by Tom Haskell



Capstone speaker leaves her own legacy

Kathy Peterson is president of PeopleWorks, Inc., in Storm Lake, Iowa. To contact Kathy, call 888-404-3646, e-mail Kathy@peopleworksinc.com, or visit the Web at www.peopleworksinc.com.

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If they graduated from high school and chose to go to college, he would pay for their college education. All the sudden, these students had different visions for the future. From that school, usually only 25% graduated and *very* few went on to college. From this class, 80% graduated, and the majority went to college. IQ and family background are not as important as having a dream. What's your "big dream?"

Phillip Gulley said, "Death jogs our minds about what's important. It separates wheat from chaff. Life isn't about money and big houses or fancy cars or titles. It's about family and friends and whether we love. We can't fit that all on a tombstone, so we carve our names and dates of birth and death and hope that somewhere between those two dates life was lived well."

What's *your* legacy?

Conference offers diverse entertainment



ABOVE: MVAEA conference entertainment featured Dave Moore, the talented guitar/harmonica/accordion playing musician who appears on National Public Radio's "Prairie Home Companion" show. Dave wowed attendees with his unique style of music. *Photo by Tom Haskell*

Conference-goers also participated in some fun (and unexpected!!!)



entertainment events, including line dancing, hula hooping, and bubble blowing. AT LEFT: Barb Stephens leads line dancers. **BELOW:** Lynn Rolfmeier blows a bubble. *Photos by Betty Wallace*



We share much in common with Lewis & Clark Keynote address draws parallels

by Shari Kiple (Iowa), newsletter editor

The MVAEA conference keynote presentation was given by Mark Johnson, a United States veteran and former Green Beret officer who spent 20 years in over 50 nations on four continents. Here are just a few of his comments. *Editor's notes appear in italics.*

"This is the heart of America. There is no better place in the world to celebrate success or accomplishments," said Johnson, who accomplished a great deal during his 20-year career.

Johnson also alluded to the efforts of Lewis & Clark. "Can

you imagine our country without Lewis & Clark's contributions? They took lots of risks. Each and every day was different. They overcame adversity every day, right here in the shadow of the Missouri River."

Isn't this much like today's adult and continuing education professionals? They take risks, face uncertain days, and overcome their own type of adversity on a regular basis.

"We thank our lucky stars," Johnson said, "that we had men and women like Lewis & Clark and Sacajawea who had a remarkable and positive impact on our country—and, I would argue—our world."

Today's continuing educators are also making a remarkable and positive impact on our world, by touching the lives of adult students one by one when they need it most.

"Having a significant, positive impact on the world is what we should be about. Our goal is to be better today than we were yesterday."

Today's adult and continuing education professionals also strive to help their students to realize this important goal.



ABOVE: Mark Johnson presents his keynote address at the MVAEA conference in Sioux City. *Photo by Tom Haskell*



STATE NEWS

KANSAS

www.thekaea.org

NEBRASKA

www.acean.org

NORTH DAKOTA

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

MIN NA SOH TAH

www.mnmacae.org

submitted by Dr. Diana Cohen—from the North Country and Minnesota Association of Continuing Adult Education.

MACAE members attended the MVAEA conference in Sioux City, Iowa, on March 31-April 2. We learned more about MVAEA, attended concurrent sessions, and, yes, had a lot of fun. Learning and fun seem to be a good fit. For example, after a productive day at the conference, a few of us found our way to the newly renovated Orpheum Theatre to see the Peking Acrobats. Watching the acrobats balance from high altitudes put life into perspective!

The conference's silent auction concluded Thursday night and raised funds for both MVAEA and MACAE. Thursday night's awards banquet included the guitar/harmonica/accordion playing musician, Dave Moore, who appears on the "Prairie Home Companion" radio show. The evening's festivities also included assorted contests such as: hula-hooping, bubble-blowing and pass the rolling pin. And one contest included—well, next time, you will just have to come to the conference.

MACAE board members returned home energized, and they took a proactive step in

Have you "HERD"?

Congratulations, Kansas! There were 17 MVAEA conference attendees from Kansas this year—earning Kansas the coveted MVAEA "Herd Award" for the state bringing the most attendees (outside the state hosting the event) to the 2004 MVAEA conference in Sioux City. That's three years in a row!

April to strengthen the organization. Board members met with a marketing consultant who led us through a strategic planning session. She asked tough questions but inspired the board to review past programs and compile data on current members. Our immediate goals are to complete this self-assessment and reach out to the members for their input. Ultimately, MACAE would like to increase membership and to improve ongoing events, including the fall conference. We acknowledged that MACAE faces much competition from other professional organizations in the Twin Cities. This effort will help us focus our attention and set goals.

In pursuit of communicate with members in a timely way, reducing costs, and following the paperless trend, our newsletter will go online using the established Internet site: www.mnmacae.com. MACAE also communicates with members via e-mail using Yahoo: MACAE-members@yahoo.com.

Finally, the most recent "Issues Forum" was held April 22 in St. Paul, Minn. It was a teleconference on the use of teleconferencing in adult formal higher education. You can click on MACAE's Web site to find out more or contact me directly at dicohen@stthomas.edu.

MISSOURI

www.maacce.org/

submitted by Les Lang

The MAACCE board met on March 19 at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Lake Ozark, Mo. The Conference Planning Committee met the previous day to finalize plans for the MAACCE conference, which will be held June 16-18 at Tan-Tar-A Resort. Pre-conference events are scheduled on Tuesday, June 15, 2004. The theme for the conference is *Worlds to Share at the 2004 Fair!* — *Meet Me at Tan-Tar-A*. Much planning has gone into the conference,

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which will simulate the actual 1904 World's Fair held in St. Louis, Mo. A midway will be constructed, and the conference will begin with a parade down the midway. Along the midway, there will be plenty of refreshments (hot dogs, cotton candy, and ice cream), along with jugglers, stilt walkers, barbershop quartets, and other entertainment along the way. Many photos will be exhibited from the actual 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. An old-fashioned photographer will also photograph attendees in the conference-created midway.

The opening conference speaker is Dr. Tim Crowley, who is recognized for his compassion, knowledge, positive attitude, and contagious sense of humor. He is from Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph, and he is known nationwide for his spectacular ability to captivate audiences. For information and a registration form, visit www.maacce.org.

Missouri is considering the feasibility of hosting the COABE national conference in 2007. Dr. Gail Lawson, COABE president, met with the MAACCE board to discuss the possibility. Realizing it would take a great amount of effort to host an event of this magnitude, the board took it under advisement, and a committee will study the issue. The Missouri cities of St. Louis and Kansas City have expressed interest in being possible sites.

SOUTH DAKOTA **www.sdall.org**

submitted by Lana Reich

The Summer Institute will be held July 12-14 in Pierre for all AEL/ESL teachers. There will be two strands of training offered to meet both AEL and ESL teacher training needs. Also, a representative from TABE will provide training on TABE 9 and 10 in preparation for the switch to the new TABE.

An Adult Education Standards task force was formed to begin the process of establishing South Dakota Adult Education Standards. Kathy Polis, president of Strategic Training and Resources, Inc., met with task force members to help them identify the purpose of the task force and to select a template for use in

developing the standards. Adult education teachers will be asked to help the task force create standards and benchmarks for all subject areas. It will likely take 3-5 years to write standards and benchmarks, train staff, and implement standards into AEL programs.

On April 16, ESL teachers met in Sioux Falls for Marco Polo training, which provided Internet sites for ESL lesson plans and resources.

IOWA **www.iowall.org**

submitted by Dale Amunson

The Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning has been undergoing several transitions in leadership. President-elect and conference chair Heather Willard will be leaving Iowa to take a new position out-of-state. The IALL board of directors has voted to retain its current president, Scott Schneider, for a second term of office (2004-05) after his tenure is up at IALL's fall conference on Oct. 13-15.

Heather will work with the Conference Planning Committee to coordinate IALL's fall conference at the Sheraton Four Points Inn by the airport in Des Moines. Speakers and a general format have been discussed, but much is still in the planning stages. Scott (formerly at North Iowa Community College) has accepted a new position with Clark College in Dubuque, where he is working with its non-traditional/accelerated degree programs.

Continuing a tradition started many years ago, IALL will once again offer its office professionals conference in Spring 2005. This idea grew out of respect for support staff members who are so invaluable to the operation of our organizations statewide. Iowa's office professionals look forward to this activity and appreciate the recognition it provides. For updates, visit IALL's Web site.

In March, IALL held its annual legislative breakfast at the Iowa state capitol building. Approximately 35 legislators attended the informal event, which allowed them to visit with about a dozen IALL representatives. The activity helps inform legislators that IALL exists to promote adult and continuing education through a diverse membership.

MVAEA

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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ON THE WEB

resources you can put to work right now

You can find additional photos from the 2004 MVAEA conference posted at the MVAEA Web site: www.mvaea.com.

This issue's Web sites appear courtesy of Jim Lightbody, MVAEA's former newsletter editor and the source of inspiration for the *Adult Perspectives*, which is a regular feature of the present-day MVAEA newsletter.

Happenings in the Valley extends a special thank you to Jim for his research efforts!

<http://www.acenet.edu/cill/ged/index.cfm>

The official site of the GED Testing Service

<http://www.worldwidelearn.com/continuing-education/index.html>

Online professional continuing education courses

http://www.ericfacility.net/databases/ERIC_Digests/ed321156.html

Teaching adults with learning disabilities

<http://honolulu.hawaii.edu/intranet/committees/FacDevCom/guidebk/teachtip/adults-2.htm>

Principles of adult learning, including learning tips for effective instructors

<http://honolulu.hawaii.edu/intranet/committees/FacDevCom/guidebk/teachtip/adults-1.htm>

More principles of adult learners

<http://www.c-pal.net/>

Community partnerships for adult learning

<http://www.ericdigests.org/1992-3/adult.htm>

Reflective practice in adult education

<http://www.ericdigests.org/1992-5/adult.htm>

Ethical practice in adult education

<http://www.arl.org/training/ilcso/adultlearn.html>

Adult learning theory and model

http://www.ericfacility.net/databases/ERIC_Digests/ed377313.html

Guidelines for working with adult learners

<http://www.aelweb.vcu.edu/>

Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center site

Coming Soon

MVAEA Board Meeting

July 15-16 in Ames, Iowa

Deadline for the next issue of *Happenings in the Valley*

August 20

MVAEA Leadership Academy

March 16, 2005, in Overland Park, Kansas

MVAEA Annual Conference

March 17-18, 2005, in Overland Park, Kansas

Missouri Valley Adult Education Association – Membership Application

Membership Category (check one)

Individual (\$35)

Life (\$300)

Student (\$15)

Retiree (\$15)

New

Renewal

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 15 for contact information).