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Missouri  
Valley  
Adult  
Education  
Association

# MVAEA

## Happenings in the Valley

### Members expand horizons in North Dakota

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**SPRING &  
EARLY  
SUMMER 2006**  
vol. 1, no. 1-2

by Mary Schaefer, MVAEA president

**B**right blue skies and warm temperatures welcomed adult educators from the seven states of Missouri Valley to Fargo, N.D. for the 2006 MVAEA conference, *Expanding Horizons*. This conference gathered 121 adult education professionals together to hear the provocative messages of the keynote, capstone, and a variety of concurrent session speakers.

From beginning to end, the conference provided a formula for new paradigms of collaboration and tools for realizing our goals.

Karen Ray, of Karen Ray Associates, provided strategies for forming effective collaboration and evaluating existing partnerships. Her realistic and pragmatic approach provided essential skills for teambuilding and evaluating our partnering relationships, whether in the classroom or the administrative structures of our organizations.

Ann Dolence, with both humor and substance, cautioned us not to get too comfortable with where we are "at" and provided a challenge to dare to dream new dreams for our personal and professional lives. Each speaker provided ample insight to expand our horizons.

Between these inspiring speakers, a wide spectrum of learning opportunities was available with diverse

breakout sessions selected to build skills in providing instruction, insight, and leadership in the adult education field. "But I want to go to two sessions at this time," was the most often heard comment from conference participants.

The days were very full. Leadership academy, Minnesota hospitality, Presidents Breakfast, silent auction, vendors, special meals, and entertainment filled all the spare moments between those great educational opportunities. It was fun!

Each has special memories from this conference. For some, it may be the inspiring new Americans who led the pledge, for others it may be competing in the silent auction. Still others may have memories that include sharing that special banquet meal and recognizing colleagues who have given much and performed well. For many of us, the opportunity to share time, ideas, and warmth with friends and colleagues from across the states is the highlight we treasure in our memory.

Whatever your memory, take a moment to savor it. Remember to keep those connections alive throughout the coming months. And be sure to take a pen to save the dates for another wonderful learning opportunity in Bloomington, Minn., on April 18-20, 2007, for the next great MVAEA conference.

**Photo by  
Terry Ramig**



## Helpful tips for working with ESL students

It's important to remember that ESL students' language development is encouraged by communication. Here are some techniques to keep in mind when working with ESL students.

**Technique:** Use non-verbal and verbal communication strategies when communicating with students.

### 1. Non-verbal strategies

hand signals                      object labels  
pictures                              actions  
facial expressions  
bilingual or picture dictionaries

### 2. Verbal strategies

face students  
be confident  
speak at a slower rate  
pronounce words normally  
pause between sentences or phrases  
use shorter, simpler sentences and questions  
establish patterns in questions  
use appropriate tone of voice  
use high frequency and consistent words  
paraphrase often  
avoid slang and idiomatic phrases, asides  
and unclear pronouns

**Technique:** Support ESL students' efforts to communicate.

be a good listener  
be patient  
encourage students to continue  
focus on meaning, not grammar  
provide difficult words when students struggle  
allow the students to decide when to speak aloud  
build on or scaffold what students say  
restate what students say  
ask for clarification or elaboration  
provide peer interaction through cooperative learning  
give ESL students time to rehearse what they want to say  
let students speak their language with each other  
let students switch between languages if they don't know words in English  
praise when ESL students communicate

**Source:**  
**Jim**  
**Lightbody,**  
**former**  
**editor of**  
**Happenings**

## ...with liberty and justice for all New U.S. citizens open MVAEA conference

by Donna Lemar

With hands placed firmly over their hearts and faces reflecting their resolve, eight new American citizens from the Fargo Adult Learning Center proudly led participants in the Pledge of Allegiance at the opening ceremony of the 2006 MVAEA conference. For these students (originally from Bosnia, China, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, and Togo) realizing their goals of attaining U.S. citizenship came only after months of intense preparation. Being able to begin new lives as citizens of a land that promises liberty and justice for all is a privilege and a responsibility they recognize and revere. Describing the experience of standing before MVAEA conference participants and watching the West Fargo High School Color Guard march forward with the colors, one student said, "When the flag was placed in a position of honor, we spoke with one voice."

Donna Lemar (in lower picture, far right) is an instructor at the Fargo Adult Learning Center and was named YWCA Women of the Year in Education for 2006. She helped students prepare their role in the opening ceremony at the 2006 MVAEA conference.



Photos by Evan Bensley

# From the President

## Expand your horizons in North Dakota!

by Mary Schaefer, MVAEA president



The theme of the 2006 MVAEA conference was *Expanding Horizons*, and we

accomplished that goal on so many levels.

Wearing the hats of both MVAEA president and president-elect simultaneously was a “stretching” experience for me personally. It was a reminder that events that cause to grow are often challenges we do not seek. Yet, with teamwork, support, and direction, it is amazing what can be realized.

I must thank the “teams” that put together the teamwork. In my role as president-elect and chair for conference planning efforts, there are many people to acknowledge. Deb Sisco, conference co-chair, and the North Dakota Conference Planning committees did an outstanding job of taking on the responsibilities and tasks of making this a successful conference.

In conference planning, the success is truly dependant on each committee embracing its task and dedicating the time to make its piece of the picture shine. Without a doubt, every committee did this. Thank you to all the adult educators across the state of North Dakota who worked so hard to make this happen. Your teamwork was outstanding. It was a great conference!

Stepping into role of MVAEA president after attending only one board meeting as president-elect was also a bit of a learning curve. Again, it is time to thank the team. The MVAEA board stepped up to the plate to

truly support not only me, but also the organization as a whole, in making a highly successful transition this year.

As a board and as an organization, we accomplished some important milestones. For example, vital bylaw changes were identified and addressed to make the organization more viable. The membership concurred and unanimously accepted these changes at this year’s 2006 annual business meeting in Fargo.

I would also like to thank and recognize the history of our organization embodied in the many past presidents in our ranks. We were fortunate to have 11 past presidents in attendance at this conference. I would particularly like to thank our most recent past president, Evan Bensley, for his extra support during this year.

Special thanks as well to Terry Ramig and the team of past presidents who have agreed to carry out the duties of past president during the coming year. I also wish to express genuine appreciation to all the other past presidents of MVAEA for their contributions—not only to the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association but also to the field of adult education.

The history of this organization is our foundation. New membership with fresh ideas and energy is our future.

I would like to welcome all new members of MVAEA. I think you may have sensed there is something special about this organization. In times of challenging budgets and changing structures, a vehicle to advocate for adult education and to learn to negotiate the challenges is essential.

Take the time to get involved. Consider presenting at a conference, submitting an article to *Happenings*, or serving on the Board. I know it will “expand your horizons”; it certainly has expanded mine.

**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 page 13 of this issue.**

# MVAEA honors award-winning members for

**Each year MVAEA recognizes individuals from each of its seven-state association who are members of both organizations and who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and contribution in the area of adult and continuing education.**

## **NEBRASKA: TERRY RAMIG**

Terry Ramig began her career as a local community education coordinator in West Point, and later was named a regional coordinator with Northeast Community College. She is currently responsible for scheduling credit and non-credit programming in 40+ communities in seven counties, as well as supervising the NECC Education Center in West Point.

Involved in adult and continuing education since 1988, Terry has been a member of ACEAN for 17 of those years. In 1990 she was honored as ACEAN Rookie of the Year. She received the President's Award in 1996 and 2002, and she was selected by ACEAN as the Outstanding Adult Educator in 2003. Terry has held ACEAN Board positions, including secretary and MVAEA state representative, as well as co-chairing the 2003 ACEAN/MVAEA Conference Planning Committee. She also served as president of MVAEA in 2003-04.

## **KANSAS: KIM KIRK**

Kim Kirk came to Karen Ulanski with the desire to complete her college degree in management & human relations. She finished her bachelor's degree in one year while still working full-time at the Paola Adult Education Center. Kim has worked in adult education for 13+ years. She started full-time in 1998 and has continued to be the lead teacher for the Paola program ever since. She continues to participate in the MVAEA conferences, Kansas Summer Institutes, and KAEA conferences—both as a presenter as well as an attendee.

Kim has been instrumental in the development of the Workplace Essential Skills curriculum for the Paola Center. In addition, she assisted in the development of lessons for each CASAS competencies including the Paola Center. Kim is always there for her students, as well as for her work. When the Center lost its night instructor, she would work 12-14 hour days while salaried. She never fails to get the job done. Her dedication, sense of humor, and commitment to adult education is unsurpassed.

## **MISSOURI: PAM DEDRICK**

Pam goes above and beyond her normal duties—including using her own personal time

and resources—to benefit her students. She works closely with community agencies and leaders to gain support, references, and donations to help support her class site. Pam is dedicated to expanding her knowledge in teaching practices by conducting research, attending professional development activities, and attending workshops and conferences to help her better serve her students.

Pam has spent many hours participating in projects that improve her abilities to help students—including PowerPath Learning Differences tool, distance learning projects, and piloting of teacher staff development activities. Pam's dedication to her students and to North Central Missouri College's quest to provide quality services to the AEL program is without reproach.

It is Pam's fundamental philosophy to provide students with tools they need to meet their goals and promote accountability in doing what it takes to succeed. Her underlying belief is that adult education helps those who help themselves. This philosophy has provided huge success for her class site and for her programs.

## **SOUTH DAKOTA: RENEE PETERSON**

Renee Peterson has been teaching and administering the AEL Program at the Career Learning Center of the Black Hills since 1989. During her tenure, the adult education program has grown from serving fewer than 100 students per year to serving more than 700 annually. When Renee began, she was a single teacher working in one classroom. Now her program encompasses 12 teachers teaching ABE/GED/ESL classes at five different sites.

In addition to overseeing teaching staff, Renee also conducts orientations, develops curriculum, creates marketing materials, provides publicity for the program, and is actively involved in the Rapid City Literacy Network. Because Renee's first love is being a part of the students' success, she spends her "spare time" helping in the classroom.

This past year, the Rapid City GED Program had an 89% passing rate—which is above state and national averages. Renee believes the success of her program results from focusing on higher level thinking skills

*continues on page 5*

# expanding horizons, surpassing expectations

*continued from page 4*

versus memorization of subject material. Renee also established and now maintains an additional AEL site at the Lakota Homes Community Center to better meet the educational needs of Native American students. In addition, Renee develops curricula with real life applications; she brings into the classroom activities relating to education, training, and career choices so students realize that earning a GED and increasing their basic education skills is just the beginning of lifelong education and training.

Renee is also an SDALL board member, helps conduct new teacher training in Pierre each year, was chosen to be a team leader for the STAR reading pilot, and attends numerous meetings and organizes activities in her position as coordinator of the largest AEL program in the state. Her hard work and dedication to her students make her truly deserving of recognition by her peers.

## MINNESOTA: FRED BARTLING

Dr. Fred Bartling has served on the Minnesota Association for Continuing Adult Education (MACAE) board for five years. Fred has made outstanding presentations at annual conferences

of his state association and MVAEA. He has also provided distinguished leadership in helping to move MACAD into electronic communication with its membership and the general public. Within the next few months, MACAE's new Web site will have a new look because of Fred's leadership in this area. Fred earned his Ph.D. in 2004 from St. Mary's University. For his dissertation, he studied leadership qualities and behaviors of officers in MVAEA. Fred teaches courses (including "Leadership Development" and "Diversity") at Concordia University in St. Paul, Minn.

## IOWA: KIM OAKS

Kim Oaks began as a student intern in 1984 for the Adult and Continuing Education Division at Southwestern Community College in Creston, Iowa. Later that year, Kim accepted a secretarial position and has been a SCC employee ever since. In 2003 she completed her A.A. degree, and in 2004 she was promoted to business coordinator. That's 20+ years of increasing responsibility! Areas of expertise include work on committees in technology and Web design, the Driver

*continues on page 6*



**FROM LEFT:** Terry Ramig (Nebraska), Renee Peterson (South Dakota), Laurel Kaae (North Dakota), Kim Kirk (Kansas), Fred Bartling (Minnesota), and Kim Oaks (Iowa).  
**NOT PICTURED:** Pam Dedrick (Missouri)

Photo by Michelle Hanson

# MVAEA awards honor outstanding service

*continued from page 5*

**Special thanks to Iowa's Barb Stephens, who hosted the MVAEA award ceremony this year, and Evan Bensley, who provided information on the award recipients.**

Improvement Program, adult education assistance in ABE and GED, scheduling, Microsoft Training with local industry, business partnerships, economic development, energy conservation, and state mandated programs.

Kim got involved in the 1997 MVAEA conference when Barb Stephens was MVAEA's president-elect; she served on the Conference Planning Committee seven years later when Iowa hosted the 2004 MVAEA conference in Sioux City under Evan Bensley's leadership.

Beyond work, Kim has also served on the local city council, helped her husband with his business, and raised two sons.

## **NORTH DAKOTA: LAUREL KAAE**

Laurel Kaae has been instrumental in helping

the adult education programs in North Dakota. The following are a few of her contributions:

1. [www.adultlearningcenter.com](http://www.adultlearningcenter.com), her all-inclusive Web site covering all you need to know about adult education;
2. North Dakota's rural technology access to GED online;
3. an informative monthly NDABSE (North Dakota Adult Basic & Secondary Education) newsletter;
4. tireless efforts to save adult education through legislative channels; and
5. popular presentations at the NDABSE conferences

Laurel is western North Dakota's "Jane of all trades" for NDABSE involvement—serving in almost every capacity on the board. Truly, she is the perfect example of a lifelong learner and continually takes classes for her own growth. Her involvement is everywhere, yet subtle. Her interests are varied, yet with one target. Her skills are endless, yet hard-earned.

## ***Dale Amunson receives Founders Award***

**D**ale Amunson is a lifelong learner. He began his career in education as a high school industrial arts teacher in

Clarksville Iowa. In 1981, he started working in the adult education department at Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo, serving as the Dean of Continuing Education until his retirement in June 2002. In the 20+ years at the community college, he was

known for working well with people. Dale was especially proud of starting the Martin Luther King Center in downtown Waterloo and working with the community outreach programs in smaller towns throughout the Hawkeye area. Dale earned his master's and doctorate degrees during these years.

Dale is known as "Mr. John Deere"—a reputation earned from the training he coordi-

nated with the company and because of all the John Deere items he brings to Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning (IALL) conference silent auction events.

Dale could also be called "Mr. IALL" and/or "Mr. MVAEA". He has served in several officer and board positions for each organization. Most people leave that kind of responsibility to others when they retire. While 2002 was Dale's retirement year, however, he still serves on the MVAEA board as the Iowa representative. He has always been the cool, clear voice of reason and experience in our midst. Dale is also a lifetime IALL member.

Dale currently fills many roles: adjunct professor at the University of Northern Iowa, a tour guide at John Deere, an electrician with Dean's Light Box, and a substitute teacher in the K-12 system. In his spare time, he makes beautiful furniture and loves working under the hood to keep cars and trucks humming.

He and his wife Nancy enjoy their cabin on Lake Cornelia and are looking forward to their son's wedding in July. Dale takes care of his elderly mother's needs in Soldier, Iowa, and is a committed member of his church and the community of Clarksville.



**ABOVE, CENTER: Dale Amunson with Barb Eisenmenger (left), who nominated him for the Founders Award, and Betty Wallace (right)**

**Photo by Michelle Hanson**

# MVAEA announces Hovland grant recipient

by Rhonda Jones, Development Committee chairperson

**C**ongratulations to Betty Randall of the Dickinson Adult Learning Center in Dickinson, N.D. She is the recipient of the 2006 Hovland Award, which is MVAEA's development fund grant award.

Betty's proposal—"Testing for Computer Manual Re-Write Project"—will provide testing for the final phase of centers Microsoft Word and Excel manuals that have been re-written at a lower reading level and updated to Word 2003. The purpose of the testing is two-fold. First, they will evaluate the new manuals to ensure the instructions are clear and easy to follow. Next, they will evaluate the students' reading ability before and after using the manuals to ensure that the manuals help students increase their reading ability.

Betty received a certificate at the MVAEA spring conference awards banquet in Fargo, N.D. She will share a project presentation at next year's MVAEA conference in Minnesota.

**Applications for 2007 development fund award are available by visiting the MVAEA Web site or by contacting Rhonda Jones at [Rhonda.Jones@slps.org](mailto:Rhonda.Jones@slps.org).**



**Betty Randall (right)  
with Rhonda Jones**

**Photo by  
Michelle Hanson**

## To all my MVAEA associates and friends:

**Please accept my humble thanks for presenting me with the MVAEA Founders Award at the 2006 conference in Fargo. I especially want to thank Barbara Eisenmenger for submitting the nomination and all of those who supplied her with the necessary information. I also want to thank my wife, Nancy, for being a part of this nomination as she helped gather information.**

**During my many years in community and continuing education, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many great and caring individuals. If ever there was stronger and more caring group of people who believe in education for all, it is these folks because they do care. I am proud to know you, and to have worked with many of you.**

**The Founders Award will be one I cherish forever, as it the heart and soul of an old and very proud organization. To those who have received it before me, I feel honored to be named to that cadre of educators. To those who will receive it in the future, it is awesome. To MVAEA board members who have become valued friends over the years, thanks for your friendship. To the IALL board, which has expressed confidence in me by appointing me to serve with MVAEA, I thank you. And to all those who have made it possible, you are truly a great group of people and deserving of all honors in your own right.**

**Thank you again. I hope to remain an active part of this wonderful organization for many years to come.**

**Dale A. Amunson**

## Grant recipients present session

by Rhonda Jones, Development Committee chair

**“E**nriching Encounters with ESL Students,” a presentation by Dr. Charlotte Knoche and Kimberly Johnson, was a huge success! Charlotte and Kimberly were the recipients of the Hovland Grant for 2005. Charlotte is from Concordia University in St. Paul, while Kimberly is from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Together, they designed ESL workshops to provide basic principles of second language learning and to explore cultural values and beliefs for all faculty and staff working with first- or second-generation immigrant students. The workshop objectives were accomplished through discussions, cultural simulations, experiential activities, readings, and small group interaction. Each workshop was tailored to meet the needs of the participants.

Charlotte and Kimberly led participants through a very interactive session. (For example, who knew a recipe for “Idun Boller” could provide such an educational experience?) One participant commented, “The group interaction was great, and I didn’t want it to end so soon!” The session also included handouts listing ESL resources and Web sites. All participants went home with a better understanding of second language learning, along with new strategies.

# MVAEA conference keynote address

## Effective collaboration is not an oxymoron

by Evan Bensley, MVAEA past president

**K**aren Ray delivered an inspiring keynote address to MVAEA conference attendees on Thursday, April 27. Her presentation, “Effective Collaboration is not an Oxymoron,” centered on building success in the new business environment. She concentrated on methods of how to build stronger partnerships and alliances with comparative organizations.

Karen emphasized the dramatic changes in adult education by giving the audience a brief history on adult education and its evolution since the 1960s. Because recent changes in adult education have been so dramatic, Karen noted effective agencies cannot become “everything agencies.” She reminded us to form strong and effective partnerships with other organizations to ensure continued growth.

“Partnering today puts the responsibility back on to the organization to provide opportunities for education,” noted Karen. She also reminded attendees it is important to recognize there are other agencies that may offer education you cannot presently offer. Rather than compete with them, work with them to form a collaboration agreement or partnership.

Karen continued by describing the four stages to a successful partnership. She described collaboration as the most intense way in which to work together. Collaboration is a

special process that would be used when you are going to change the ways in which you provide services to the students. Cooperation and coordination are the least intense and more desirable ways in which to work with other agencies to provide services. Karen stated, “Collaborations are not permanent, but relationships are.”

Three strategies to success were outlined in her presentation.

The first strategy was results. A result consists of what is happening, why it’s important, and who you are telling. Telling the right people about your programs success is paramount to survival before it becomes crunch time with local, state, and federal budgets.

The second strategy mentioned was relationships. Relationships should contain equity, not equality of power. Self-interest, trust, and conflict may occur when

building strong relationships.

The third and final strategy described was resiliency. We do this when funding runs out.

Finally, Karen left attendees with a powerful statement: “Systems are changed because individual organizations change themselves.”

Karen did an outstanding job of entertaining and educating the audience. Her talk was critical to programs currently being threatened by federal budget cuts. In addition, her discussion paved the way for conference breakout sessions that followed.



**WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU???**  
Please let us know if you have a new job, a life change, an innovative or interesting program to share, or ideas you'd like to pass along to your colleagues throughout the region. Submit your ideas, articles, or photos to Shari Kiple, editor, using the contact information on page 13. Thanks!

MVAEA leaders preside at the annual business meeting during the 2006 MVAEA conference in Fargo, N.D.

FROM LEFT: Phil Wegman, Greg Nolting (at podium), Mary Schaefer, Dale Amunson, and Evan Bensley

Photo by Terry Ramig



## Capstone message promotes “Yes, I can!” attitude

by Beverly Davis, Kansas state representative

North Dakota sent us off with a real bang. Our capstone speaker was Ann Dolence. According to her Web site—<http://www.anndolence.com/>—Ann’s mission is to “facilitate the improvement of quality of life and the work experience for all who choose to participate.” Let me tell you, Ann presented a power message of ways to improve our quality of life and others adults we come in contact with in our roles as teachers, mentors, administrators, and support staff.

Ann said we need to visualize success through a *positive* and *can do* attitude. She discussed the *Cycle of Success—POEM*. In order to experience success, one needs to *prepare*, find the *opportunity*, put forth *effort*, and have a high level of *motivation*. She continued by talking about the importance of our belief system. She also gave us the three R’s that keep us in the comfort zone. They are *reluctance*, *resistance*, and *rebellion*.

During her motivating capstone address, Ann shared the quote, “Argue for your limita-

tions and they are yours. Argue for your possibilities and they are yours as well.” In addition, she provided us with concrete examples of how to change our limiting beliefs. She concluded her powerful presentation by demonstrating how goal setting, levels of commitment, the laws of attraction, and positive affirmations can change a willing person’s quality of life.

At the end of her presentation, the audience was standing and positively affirming that “Yes, I Can!” Thanks to Ann and North Dakota for the powerful send-off.



Ann Dolence (left) talks with an attendee after her presentation. Photo by Evan Bensley

## LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

### Speaker offers tips on improving organizational performance

by Marcy Beck

Improving organizational performance was the focus of the leadership conference held at the annual MVAEA conference. Patrick Gallagher from Corporate Adventures presented strategies to help improve interactions within a group and explore new possibilities. Throughout the afternoon on Wed., April 26, leadership conference attendees were encouraged to create and explore new possibilities. Emphasis was placed on giving up control to further empower the process. Selected comments from leadership conference participants are listed below.

“A valuable presentation.”

“[Patrick Gallagher] has a casual approach-easy to listen to and contribute to the session.”

“I liked the definition for respect: ‘Don’t try to change someone else, accept them as they are.’”

“Good energy. Good ideas to consider.”

“Enjoyed the presentation and plan to check out the books.”

Article and photo by Marcy Beck, who works at the Minot Adult Learning Center in Minot, N.D.



# Minnesota hosts hospitality reception

by Bella Hanson, Minnesota state representative

The 2006 conference kicked off with a hospitality sponsored by the Minnesota Association for Adult Continuing Education (MACAE), which will host MVAEA's annual conference in Bloomington, Minn., next spring—April 18-20, 2007.

MVAEA conference attendees were met with a welcome, a bag of brochures, and a sticker to wear. The sticker was either the picture of a famous Minnesotan or a sentence or phrase that is connected to that person. The guest with the picture and the guest with the corresponding sentence or phrase were asked to find each other during the course of the reception. When they found each other, they came to Gil Kinnunen, who gave them each a small prize.

A small plastic bag of “moose

droppings” (either jelly beans or chocolate covered peanuts), was another gift from the Minnesota hosts that was waiting for attendees as they found a place at one of the tables.

Many door prizes (including Minnesota products such as Dinty Moore Beef Stew and Hormel Chili) were given throughout the evening as conference participants enjoyed networking, renewing acquaintances, and sharing hors d'oeuvres and beverages.



**ABOVE: Gil Kinnunen poses with the door prize bags distributed by MVAEA members from “The Land of 10,000 Lakes” at the hospitality reception.**

**BELOW: Attendees complete Minnesota trivia crossword puzzles at the hospitality reception.**



Photos by Terry Ramig

**ON  
THE  
WEB**

**resources  
you can  
put to work  
right now**

## [www.my50.co.uk](http://www.my50.co.uk)

This site invites you to create a list of 50 things (goals, activities, etc.) you'd like to try to accomplish during your lifetime. What a great motivator for today's adult students!

## [www.factster.com](http://www.factster.com)

Whether you're advising a student or need information fast for yourself, this site is an

exceptionally quick and convenient source for statistical information.

## [www.50states.com/facts/](http://www.50states.com/facts/)

This is an interesting site that features little known fast facts and trivia about each of the nation's 50 states. You can choose to test your current knowledge, or study up on the states to amaze your friends!

# Presidents Breakfast offers rare networking opportunity

by Evan Bensley, MVAEA past president

Part of the annual tradition of the MVAEA spring conference is to offer a morning breakfast for the presidents and president-elects of the various state adult education associations within Missouri Valley's region.

This is rare opportunity for the leaders of each state to meet with the MVAEA board to discuss various issues that are of concern in their state. It also allows everyone the opportunity to share ideas and network with other people who are in the same position from another state. This year's MVAEA Presidents Breakfast was held on the morning of Thursday, April 27.

Six of MVAEA's seven states had representation at the breakfast: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Attendees at the breakfast had a chance to introduce themselves and share a report on their state association. We soon realized how similar we are in regard to budgetary concerns in each state. Other

topics such as membership, state conferences, and unique ideas were shared with the group.

Thank you to all who attended, including: Karen Ulanski (Kansas president), Bill Burdick (Iowa president), Evan Bensley (Iowa president-elect), Leslie Shore (Minnesota president), Renee Peterson (South Dakota president-elect), Bev Enger (North Dakota president; and Lynn Riskedal (Missouri president).

**Photos by Evan Bensley**



## Conference moments...



**ABOVE:** John Henske (Missouri), Deb Sisco (North Dakota), and Howard and Eunice Hovland (South Dakota) visit at the Past Presidents luncheon held at the 2006 conference.

Photo by Michelle Hanson

**UPPER RIGHT:** David Massey (left) and Randy Eider share a moment between sessions.

**LOWER RIGHT:** The opening program of the conference attracted attention from virtually all registrants.



**Upper right and lower right photos by Terry Ramig**





# STATE NEWS

## MINNESOTA

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

*submitted by Bella Hanson*

**Mindquest Academy Pilot Study:** Mindquest Academy is in its second year of a pilot study with local ABE programs. Endorsed by the state ABE director, the pilot is designed to learn more about how the courses work with adult learners and to train ABE teachers in online (distance) learning. Mindquest Academy is a comprehensive set of 23 online college preparatory courses for adults who want to go to college but are not ready academically to do so. The courses are in four areas: academic skills, college success, academic samplers, and career development.

Mindquest Academy recently received a Perkins Grant to place a local ABE program staff person in North Hennepin Community College to teach the online courses to students enrolled in the college. The hope is that for more collaborations implemented between ABE programs and community colleges following this model.

**MACAE's new Web page:** MACAE's new web page is now up and running: [www.mnmacae.org](http://www.mnmacae.org).

## IOWA

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

*submitted by Dale Amunson*

The Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning (IALL) Conference Planning Committee has been busy working on the details for IALL's annual fall conference.

The Conference Planning Committee chairperson for this year is Evan Bensley, past president for MVAEA. He and his team have been working diligently to identify all the speakers and to put the conference

program together. The conference will be held at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center in Ames, Iowa, on Oct. 19-20, with a preconference activity on Wednesday, Oct. 18.

For those MVAEA members who are interested in attending the IALL conference, please visit the IALL Web site ([www.iowall.org](http://www.iowall.org)) for conference information, contact Evan Bensley for further information. You can e-mail him at [ebensley@nwick.edu](mailto:ebensley@nwick.edu). Evan will be glad to provide you with the necessary information to register for the IALL conference. We hope to see you there!

*continued on page 7*

## IOWA WINS "HERD AWARD"

**Congratulations to the state of Iowa! Iowa received the 2006 MVAEA "Herd Award" for the state (aside from the host state, of course) with the most attendees at the MVAEA annual spring conference. The conference was held in Fargo, N.D. on April 28-30, and Iowa was the visiting state with the most conference attendees.**

**IN THE PHOTO BELOW — Back Row: (L to R) Lynn Rolfsmeier, Cheryl Sandholm, Betty Wallace, Lori Punt, Marilyn Stille, Barb Eisenmenger, Anne Schlapia, Kim Oaks, and Barb Stephens; Front Row: (L to R) Dale Amunson, Evan Bensley, and Bill Burdick**

**Article by Evan Bensley — Photo by Michelle Hanson**



*continued from page 6*

## KANSAS

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

*submitted by Beverly Davis*

**AEFLA Funding:** Kansas Adult Education programs received news about AEFLA funding for the 2006-07 year. Although the state's initial federal funding was \$600,000 less than it was last year, state funding increased by \$200,000. Our state director withheld some extra federal funding so programs would receive incentive funding in January 2007 at the same rate we are paid for outcomes in July 2006. We feel the state increase was helped by the lobbyist our state adult organization, KAEA, has hired for the last two years. He works close with Randy Kettler our legislative liaison. For now, funding is stable in Kansas, and we can improve our services to learners.

**Summer Institute XVII:** This year's theme is *Collaborating for Student Success*. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about some of the most recent research-based strategies to improve teaching and collaboration. The dates are July 25-28. For more information, you may go to the Web site—[www.dce.ksu.edu/summerinstitute/index.shtml](http://www.dce.ksu.edu/summerinstitute/index.shtml).

**Change in Kansas representatives:** I will give up my position as Kansas representative on June 30. I want to thank both the MVAEA board and the KAEA board for the opportunity to serve this past five years. I have worked with many people who are dedicated to the multiple facets of adult education. My time on both boards has expanded my knowledge beyond the classroom. I will now help build strong volunteer groups through my presidency of Kansas Proliteracy.

The new Kansas representative is my boss here in El Dorado. She is Sue Choens and has been the alternate rep for the past five years. Our new alternate rep is Dr. Kathleen Corpus, director of the Dodge City Community College Adult Education Center. They will do a great job.

## NEBRASKA

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

## NORTH DAKOTA

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

## SOUTH DAKOTA

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

*submitted by Lori Yost*

South Dakota Association of Lifelong Learning (SDALL) Board held a spring board retreat in Keystone, S.D. The focus of the retreat was to write a mission statement for SDALL, set short-term goals and objectives, and form committees to work on their implementation. The board developed the following mission statement: *The mission of the South Dakota Association for Lifelong Learning is to promote and provide professional growth and development for adult educators in South Dakota.*

At the retreat, board members also discussed discontinuing Legislative Day activities and using the funds normally budgeted for Legislative Day for new marketing materials and/or training scholarships for members. Target dates for the SDALL fall conference are Sept. 21-22. The location for the conference will be in Pierre or Chamberlain, S.D., since a central location will be more economically feasible for most programs.

## MISSOURI

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

*submitted by Michelle Hanson*

At this year's MVAEA conference, Pam Dedrick, an AEL teacher from North Central Missouri College, in Trenton, Mo., received the MVAEA Achievement Award for Missouri.



Missouri attendees at the 2006 MVAEA conference in North Dakota. Photo provided by Michelle Hanson (far right)

## 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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# CONSULTANT'S

**O** *by Sharon Luhring, MVAEA membership services consultant*

**R**  
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**E**  
**R**  
**D**on't let this be your last issue of *Happenings in the Valley!* Renew your MVAEA membership today! Simply complete the form below or log on to MVAEA's Web site ([www.mvaea.com](http://www.mvaea.com)) for more information.

If you have membership questions or concerns, please contact me at any time. Also, if you know of others who might be interested in MVAEA, please give them my name.

## Coming Up

**August 15**

Deadline for *Happenings in the Valley*

**November 15**

Deadline for *Happenings in the Valley*

**April 18, 2007**

MVAEA Leadership Academy — Bloomington, Minn.

**April 19–20, 2007**

MVAEA Conference — Bloomington, Minn.

**Visit the MVAEA Web site — [www.mvaea.com](http://www.mvaea.com) — to learn more about what's happening in Missouri Valley!**

## MVAEA correspondence goes listserv

*by Deb Sisco, MVAEA secretary*

**M**VAEA values your membership and wants to stay in touch with you. For the past couple of years, we have distributed newsletters and some other information using a listserv. With today's technology and cost of mailings, the MVAEA board members have upgraded this to now include most correspondence and by-law changes as well as newsletters and conference reminders.

In order for your name to remain current on the listing, it is very important that you notify us of any changes in your e-mail

address. Please contact your state rep or Deb Sisco ([deb.sisco@sendit.nodak.edu](mailto:deb.sisco@sendit.nodak.edu)) if you have changes to your e-mail address.

Just a reminder of listserv etiquette: When responding to listserv messages, please respond to the sender only so that your message is not posted to the entire membership when replying to a message posted on the listserv. Also, if you post an automatic message (indicating you'll be out of the office, for example), please check the box that eliminates this automatic message from going to listserv messages. Thanks for your cooperation and assistance. We want this experience to be great for all of us.

### 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 form and dues, payable to MVAEA, to Sharon Luhring (please see page 7 for contact information).