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WINTER/  
EARLY SPRING  
2007

vol. 1, no. 5

## Celebrate the best of MVAEA at spring conference in Minnesota

by Diana Cohen (Minnesota), MVAEA  
Conference Planning Committee chairperson

Missouri Valley Adult Education includes the best of the Midwestern states—and on April 18-20, adult educators from these seven states will gather for MVAEA's annual conference at the Ramada Inn/Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn.

The conference title is *Practical Thinking: The Changing Ecology of Adult Education*.

This year's MVAEA conference program is focused on the work of adult educators.

To complement the conference, the annual Leadership Academy will be held during the afternoon of Wednesday, April 18. The featured presenter is Gil Kinnunen, learning and personal development consultant, who will provide a professional workshop called, *Collaborative Innovation: Working Together to Bring Out the Best Solutions and the Best in Each Other*. See page 5 for details.

MVAEA's spring conference will officially kick off on Thursday, April 19, with a keynote address by Willie Nesbit, a director of community education in St. Paul, Minn. At the morning program on Friday morning, Tou Ger Xiong, storyteller and diversity trainer, will share the journey of his life from the jungles of Laos, to the refugee camps of Thailand, to the public housing projects of America.

Throughout the conference, vendors will provide the latest in adult education materials and technology, and a traditional silent auction will offer a range of must-have items.

The Ramada Inn was formerly called the Thunderbird Inn; the Native America totem pole is now in the hotel's back courtyard and the artifacts are on view in the hotel lobby. This unique hotel is offering an extension of the conference hotel rate (\$80/night) if you wish to arrive early or stay for the weekend in the Twin Cities.

The upcoming MVAEA conference offers an ideal time and place for you to recharge and network with other adult educators. Hope to see you in Minnesota next month!

### CONFERENCE QUICK FACTS

**DATES:**  
April 18-20

**THEME:**  
**Practical Thinking—The Changing  
Ecology of Adult Education**

**LOCATION:**  
**Ramada Inn, Mall of America  
Bloomington, Minn  
800-311-5192 or 952-854-3111  
www.ramadamo.com**

**CONFERENCE CONTACT:**  
**Diana Cohen, Conference Chair  
952-431-6172  
dicohen@stthomas.edu**

**DETAILS AND REGISTRATION\*:**  
**www.mvaea.com/conference.html  
www.mnmacae.org  
www.mnmacae.org/confer.html\***

**CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:**  
**Page 10 of this newsletter**

## Expert shares adult education insights

written by D. Verne Morland, managing partner at ROI Learning Services

submitted by Jim Lightbody

### ABSTRACT:

At most schools of education aspiring teachers are taught the elements of pedagogy—the art of teaching children. Many aspects of teaching adults are fundamentally different than those employed in teaching children and for this reason a new word gained currency in the late 20th century—*andragogy*. This article highlights the important principles in teaching adults and suggests how they can be applied to business training.

### The meaning of pedagogy

According to the *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, the word pedagogy is derived from the Greek *paidaggos* which referred to the slave who took children to and from school. Although commonly understood to be “the art or profession of teaching” [1] most schools of education train new teachers in methods and techniques that are most relevant to the teaching of children. Some critics even suggest that “pedagogy embodies teacher-focused education.” [2]

### The history of the term andragogy

The German educator Dr. Alexander Kapp coined the term *andragogy* (actually “*andragogik*”) in 1833 [3], but it was not widely used until it was resurrected, refined, and popularized in the 1970s and 1980s by Dr. Malcolm Knowles. According to Knowles, two key differences in the ways that adults and children approach learning are the adult desires

1) to be self-directed and 2) to take responsibility for decisions. [4] Programs that address adult learning must be sensitive to these desires and should be designed accordingly.

### How adults learn

The Theory Into Practice (TIP) database states that Knowles’ concept of “*andragogy*” makes [several] assumptions about the design of learning:

1. Adults need to know why they need to learn something,
2. Adults need to learn experientially,
3. Adults approach learning as problem-solving, and
4. Adults learn best when [they believe] the topic is of immediate value.” [5]

J.S. Atherton of DeMontfort University in the United Kingdom adds that Knowles emphasized the learner self-concept—that “adults need to be responsible for their own decisions and to be treated as capable of self-direction.” [6]

### Principles of adult instruction

The TIP article summarizes these principles of adult instruction:

1. Adults need to be involved in planning and evaluating their instruction.
2. Experience (including mistakes) provides the basis for learning activities.
3. Adults are most interested in learning subjects that have immediate relevance to their jobs or personal lives.
4. Adult learning is problem-centered rather than content-oriented.

These principles suggest teaching strategies

*continued on page 4*

## From the President

# Stressed? You are not alone!

by Mary Schaefer, MVAEA president



**E**ach year adult educators face new challenges. Sometimes they are related to student

demands and the issues each learner carries with them into the classroom.

More often stresses come in the form of funding constraints, mandated outcomes, and conflicts at work. New adult educators can easily find themselves overwhelmed by this demanding and complex occupation. Veteran adult educators face the challenge of keeping their internal fire burning to be creative and innovative.

If we are not careful the impact of job stress can take its toll on our productivity and on our health.

### A larger problem

Stress issues are not unique to adult educators. According to the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, job stress has become a common and costly problem in the American workplace, leaving few workers untouched. Three-fourths of employees believe that the worker has more on the job stress than a generation ago. Problems at work are more strongly associated with health complaints than are any other life stressor, more so than even financial problems or family problems.

### Expensive price tag

Whether you are the employer or the

employee, a stressful work environment has a price tag. Some employers feel that to meet their goals, they must turn up the pressure on workers to raise productivity. But studies show that stressful working conditions are actually associated with increased absenteeism, tardiness, and turnover, all of which have on negative effect on work productivity.

As an organization, reducing stress through stress management training and implementing employee assistance programs is often the first step. However, the benefits of these programs are often short lived because they focus only on the worker, not the work environment.

Unless the root cause of the stress is addressed, the issue will not be resolved. These systemic issues include excessive work loads, unclear or conflicting expectations, or job uncertainty. It takes individual action and an organizational approach to create a healthy work environment.

### Warning signs

As with most problems, if you identify the symptoms early, you have a better chance of fixing the problem. These symptoms may be indicative of unhealthy job stress:

- job dissatisfaction
- sleep disturbances
- short temper
- upset stomach
- increased use of alcohol or drugs
- disturbed relationships with family/friends
- low morale
- teeth grinding
- headache

Left unchecked, job stress can lead to serious health problem including cardiovascular disease, musculoskeletal disorders, and psychological problems.

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### WANT TO LEARN MORE?

The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center features a Healthy Lifestyle Program that encourages you to take an active role in maintaining the quality of your health in areas such as physical fitness, stress coping, and even lifting your spirits!

For details, visit <http://healthy.lifestyle.upmc.com/>.

# Research paper examines strategies for working with adult learners

*continued from page 2*

such as case studies, role playing, simulations, and self-evaluation are most useful. Instructors should also adopt a role of facilitator and resource rather than lecturer and grader. [5]

## Applying the principles

In his 1984 work, *The Adult Learner: A Neglected Species*, Knowles describes some rules for applying andragogy principles to the design of courses that teach adults how to use personal computers: [7]

1. There is a need to explain why specific things are being taught (e.g., certain commands, functions, operations, etc.)
2. Instruction should be task-oriented instead of memorization—learning activities should be in the context of common tasks to be performed.
3. Instruction should take into account the wide range of different backgrounds of learners; learning materials and activities should allow for different levels/types of previous experience with computers.
4. Since adults are self-directed, instruction should allow learners to discover things for themselves, providing guidance and help when mistakes are made.

## Summary

Business trainers, coaches, and instructional designers need to understand the dynamics of adult learning as described by Knowles and others. Although Knowles work has elicited some controversy (particularly among those who felt he set up an artificially narrow definition of pedagogy in order to promote his new ideas [5]), his insights into adult learning behaviors and motivations are generally accepted today.

## References

1. *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* (4th ed.). Houghton Mifflin Company, 2000.
2. Conner, Marcia, "An Introduction to Andragogy + Pedagogy," ([www.learnativity.com/andragogy.html](http://www.learnativity.com/andragogy.html)).
3. Reischmann, Jost, "Why 'Andragogy'?", ANDRAGOGY.net, 2000, ([www.andragogy.net](http://www.andragogy.net)).
4. Carlson, Robert, "Malcolm Knowles: Apostle of Andragogy," *Vitae Scholasticae*, 8:1. Spring 1989. [www.nl.edu/ace/Resources/Knowles.html](http://www.nl.edu/ace/Resources/Knowles.html).
5. "Andragogy (M. Knowles)," *Explorations in Learning & Instruction: The Theory Into Practice Database*, <http://tip.psychology.org/knowles.html>.
6. Atherton, J.S., "Learning and Teaching: Knowles' Andragogy" [Online]: UK, 2002. Available at: <http://www.dmu.ac.uk/~jamesa/learning/knowlesa.htm>.
7. Knowles, Malcolm, *The Adult Learner: A Neglected Species* (3rd ed.). Houston, TX: Gulf Publishing, 1984.

Note: Web pages cited based on content accessed July 2003.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

D. Verne Morland ([verne@roi-learning.com](mailto:verne@roi-learning.com)) is the managing partner at ROI Learning Services. A leader in the application of Internet technologies to facilitate learning and improve organizational effectiveness, he defined and directed the implementation of a global online university serving over 30,000 corporate users. He was a member of the core management team that consistently reduced the cost of learning at NCR Corporation while increasing course completions.

The ROI Learning Center provides online learning experiences for corporate clients and independent professionals.

To learn more about ROI, visit <http://www.roi-learning.com/>.

## UPCOMING LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

# Learn how working together results in the best solutions...and the best in you!

by Terry Ramig

The 2007 MVAEA Leadership Academy will be held Wednesday, April 18, from 1-4 p.m. in Bloomington, Minn. As in years past, the leadership academy is a forerunner to the MVAEA annual conference. The featured leadership academy presenter is Gil Kinnunen, a learning and personal development consultant, who will present a professional workshop entitled *Collaborative Innovation: Working Together to Bring Out the Best Solutions and the Best in Each Other*.

The MVAEA Leadership Academy will focus on what participants do well now and how they can improve practices of working together to solve problems faced as adult educators and learners. Attendees will...

- review and personalize a conceptual framework for understanding collaborative innovation
- look at examples of best practices and define practical approaches that work for each
- discover resources for learning more about this topic

The workshop will provide interactive presentation with group exercises and conversation plus opportunities for questions and answers and sharing personal experiences and real-life examples and applications.

Recently retired after 32 years in employee development with the State of Minnesota, Gil has many areas of expertise, including instructional design and delivery, meeting and focus group facilitation, conference planning, work group collaboration, and performance improvement. A frequent conference presenter, Gil's workshops include presentation design and delivery, interpersonal communication, creative problem solving, learning strategies, time management, mind mapping, and much more.

Cost of the MVAEA Leadership Academy is \$50 per person. For more information or to register, contact Terry Ramig at 402-372-2269 or e-mail [terryr@northeastcollege.com](mailto:terryr@northeastcollege.com).

### MORE ABOUT GIL KINNUNEN:

Gil is a member of MACAE, MVAEA, and the Minnesota Chapter of the International Society for Performance Improvement

A second-generation American, Gil is president of the Salolampi Foundation, a multi-state organization that provides scholarship, program, promotion, and facility support for the Salolampi Finnish Language Village in Bemidji, Minn., which is sponsored by Concordia Language Villages of Concordia University in Moorhead, Minn.

Gil is an advisor to Young Audiences of Minnesota, which brings together artists and students through workshops, performances, and residency programs in Minnesota schools.

Gil holds a bachelor's degree in English and speech education at the University of Minnesota-Duluth and a Master of Divinity degree from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities.

Through the Boulder Center for Accelerated Learning and the International Alliance for Learning, Gil has enhanced skills in incorporating multiple intelligence theory and accelerated learning approaches in the classroom and the work environment.

## Stress doesn't have to get the best of us

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### Proactive strategies

To prevent costly effects of destructive stress, managers and employees must be proactive.

If you are a supervisor, take charge of creating a healthy work environment. Set expectations that are in line with the workers capabilities and resources, clearly define the expectations, and provide workers and opportunity to participate in decision making. Foster positive teamwork among the staff and promote policies that allow flexibility so workers can meet their responsibilities outside the workplace.

As an employee, take responsibility for your own health. If you are overworked, use your vacation time. Leave work on time. Don't take work home with you. If you are worried about layoffs, be prepared. Look at your options. There is more than one job for you. If you are having conflicts with a boss or co-workers, work to solve the problems. Work tension drains your energy and your productivity. If you are depressed or overwhelmed, use your employee assistance programs. Ultimately, it is important to keep in mind that your health is your most precious resource.



# STATE NEWS

## IOWA

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

*submitted by Dale Amunson*

Members of the Iowa Association for Life-long Learning (IALL) board of directors held their annual retreat on Dec. 7, 2006, in Ames, Iowa. The new chair is Evan Bensley, former MVAEA president. The board and the annual conference planning committee tried a new format this year. To combine travel and reduce out-of-office time, the conference planning committee met on Dec. 6, while the board met on Dec. 7.

IALL's 2007 annual conference will be held at the Hotel at Gateway Center in Ames on Oct. 17-19. Kim Oaks, MVAEA member and past achievement award winner, is chairing the conference, which has *The Power of Partnerships* as its theme.

One of our major events occurring this spring is the Office Professionals Workshop, which will be held April 12 at the conference center on the American Institute of Business (AIB) campus in Des Moines. Steve Herzog of AIB is coordinating this year's event. The Office Professionals Workshop was instituted about 10 years ago to provide an opportunity for administrative assistants in continuing and adult education offices to have a staff development activity closely related to their actual work instead of the usual generic material. The workshop also allows assistants who often communicate via phone to actually meet and visit about issues relative to their jobs.

### NEWS FROM THE TALL CORN STATE

**Iowa will host the 2008 MVAEA conference at a unique location that's perfect for professional development and personal fulfillment. See page 9 for additional information, and be sure to check the MVAEA Web site ([www.mvaea.com](http://www.mvaea.com)) for updates!**

IALL had planned—but then had to postpone—its annual Legislative Breakfast at the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines. The main goal for this breakfast is to share the message of adult education and lifelong learning in Iowa. In previous years, the day has also allowed us to demonstrate to legislators how many state agencies work cooperatively to help adults realize a variety of learning opportunities.

## KANSAS

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

*by Sue Choens*

Here are a few district happenings:

- In District IV, Salina Adult Education Center is partnering with the Kansas National Guard for a second class. There are 14 participants attending a two-week class from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The first class had a 75% success rate.
- District IV program directors met at Newton on Nov. 4, 2006. Using different activities to gain a common understanding of issues and content standards were discussed.

Here are some other Kansas Adult Education Association (KAEA) statewide happenings: On Jan. 22, 10 adult education program representatives from across Kansas met with Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and Dianne Glass, state adult education administrator. Gov. Sebelius read a proclamation recognizing the mission and 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of KAEA.

The first *Kansas Adult Education Day* was held Jan. 25 at the Capitol in Topeka before the state director's meeting. Trolleys took administrators and staff to the Capitol. Program staff met with area legislators, and KAEA had an information table in the

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rotunda. Wow...we had two days at the Capitol in one week!

This year's KAEA conference, *Taking the Mystery Out of Adult Education*, marked our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was held at the beautiful new Marriott Convention Center in Junction City, between Salina and Manhattan, on Feb. 21-23. On Feb. 21, a special simulated workshop focussed on poverty. Feb. 22 featured a special 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary awards banquet and murder mystery event! You can see the details at [www.thekeae.org/conference.htm](http://www.thekeae.org/conference.htm).

The Kansas Board of Regents has given programs state-wide training for the CASAS National Consortium Content Standards Project. Lessons learned include the following:

- Content standards are clear statements of what learners should know and be able to do at specific points along an educational pathway.
- Content standards define for all stakeholders not only what is expected of students, but also what schools should teach.
- Content standards should provide local programs a "clear sequence" of learning activities leading to high school completion and readiness for college.
- Content standards identify the basic skills that should be taught in conjunction with CASAS competencies.
- Content standards support instructional planning and help students master a specific competency to attain their goals.

A second day-long training will be coming within a few months.

## MINNESOTA

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

*submitted by Bella Hanson*

MACAE (Minnesota Association for Continuing Adult Education) members have been busy planning the 2007 MVAEA conference to be held in April. Everyone is very excited about

hosting colleagues from the seven states.

On Feb. 3, Minnesota Independent Scholars' Forum (MISF) and MACAE co-sponsored a meeting with three writers (Anne Auten, Paul Chapman, and Terilyn Turner) who responded to "The World is Flat" as a writing assignment for the current issue of *Practical Thinking*, MACAE's newsletter.

An ABE program in Austin, Minn. has implemented a new course called "The Bridge" for students who have English skills beyond ESL courses but who are still at a pre-college level. According to Gail Manahan, ESL instructor, the class started last fall with five students (the desired enrollment) whose main languages were Vietnamese, Chinese, and Spanish. The class is also open to English speakers who are at the same level. A lot of time is spent on conversation and pronunciation. The goal is to get students reading at a 12th-grade level or at least a 10th-grade level.

ABE involvement in Minnesota's 2007 legislative session has begun. On Jan. 11, State Director Barry Shaffer presented an overview of the ABE program to the House Early Childhood Learning Finance Division Committee. He said, "The committee was extraordinarily receptive and positive. All of the committee members [except one] were new to working with ABE. There is a steep learning curve for most [committee] members."

The Literacy Minnesota legislative committee is busy organizing various educational and advocacy campaigns, and staff are encouraged to do what they can to support their efforts and to engage in their own independent promotional activities. Shaffer is working closely with this group to develop a platform to boost ABE resources in Minnesota. He is doing the same with the national state directors of education. The Literacy Minnesota organiza-

*continued on page 8*

### FROM YOUR FRIENDS IN IOWA:

**The Iowa Association for Lifelong Learning (IALL) is "focused" on office professionals! We invite all adult and continuing education office professionals to join us on April 12 as we "focus" on learning new techniques and networking with others in the field.**

### EVENT SPECIFICS

**DATE:** April 12

**LOCATION:** AIB

College of Business,  
2500 Fleur Dr., Des  
Moines, Iowa

**COST:** \$75 per person  
(includes lunch) for  
registrations received  
by March 31 (\$95  
after March 31)

**TIME:** 9 a.m. — 3 p.m.  
(registration begins  
at 8:30 a.m.)

**TO REGISTER:** Call  
800-352-4907 or  
print online form  
available at  
[www.iowall.org](http://www.iowall.org)

### QUESTIONS?

Contact Frank  
DeMilia at  
712-324-5061,  
Steve Herzog at  
515-246-5371, or  
Angela Cox at  
515-974-8305



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tion is seeking a 26% base increase (\$10 million) in state ABE aid and the national directors group is going for a 25% increase in ABE federal aid (\$250 million). While the Governor's budget bill will not include an increase in ABE aid, it will include two items that the ABE office helped prepare: 1. An increase in the contact hour revenue cap from 8% to 11%, and 2. An increase in the GED test center subsidy from \$20 per GED test battery to \$40 per battery.

## MISSOURI

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

*submitted by Michelle Hanson*

The Missouri Association for Adult Community and Continuing Education (MAACCE) board met Feb. 2 at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Lake Ozark, Mo. The 2007 conference planning committee met the day before to work on plans for a successful summer conference.

The 2007 MAACCE summer conference will be held at Tan-Tar-A Resort on June 20-22 with preconferences on June 18-19. The theme is *A MAACCE Affair: When the Stars Come Out*. The planning committee is working hard to make this another fun and informative conference. The committee is accepting concurrent session proposals, so if you'd like to present at this conference, contact Michelle Hanson at [mhanson@marshallschools.com](mailto:mhanson@marshallschools.com) or visit [www.maacce.org](http://www.maacce.org) to download a form. To learn more about this conference, visit [www.maacce.org/conference.php](http://www.maacce.org/conference.php). This site will be updated as arrangements are made.

### WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

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**Let us know!  
We'd like to  
include your  
news in the  
next issue of  
the MVAEA  
newsletter.  
Submit your  
articles or  
photos to the  
Happenings in  
the Valley  
editor using  
the information  
on the facing  
page of  
this issue.**

The MAACCE board is investigating the cost effectiveness of giving members the option of receiving the newsletter electronically and determining how it would impact the cost of its printed versions.

The state supervisor for the GED options program has been contacted and encouraged to share the MAACCE Web page, newsletter, and conference information with all options programs around the state in an effort to generate interest in the organization from GED options teachers.

A number of individuals with national prominence have been invited to attend the next state conference, including Dr. Lennox McLendon, executive director of the National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium (NAEPDC) and Dr. Rebecca Moak, education program specialist and Area III coordinator for the Federal Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) have been given oral and follow-up written invitations to attend this summer's conference in an attempt to gain some national representation at our conference and get our organization some additional national exposure for the 2008 COABE conference.

Congratulations to Dr. Vince Vento for being a 2006 National Community Education Hall of Fame inductee. Vince was president of the Missouri Community Education Association in 1978-79, president of MAACCE in 1984-85, and president of the National Community Education Association in 1988-89. Currently he is the director of the Missouri Community Education Training Center. We are very proud of one of MAACCE's finest.

Department of Corrections reported that three correctional schools underwent an external audit by the Correctional Education Association last fall. A recommendation will be

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made to the Correctional Education Standards Commission to accept the schools' accreditation at a 100% pass rate, bringing credit to DOC's educational programs. Awards will be presented at the 62 International Correctional Education Association Conference in July. During 2006, the DOC served 24,301 students, and 1,326 students passed the GED with an 84.95% pass rate. Another 6,277 students progressed from the K-3<sup>rd</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade levels. These statistics show education effects post-release behavior for the offenders, their families, and their communities.

## 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)

*submitted by Deb Sisco*

Diane Hill from the Fargo Adult Learning Center attended a math training last summer and spent two afternoons sharing her expertise with other math teachers in the state via video conferencing. Diane shared information about the most commonly missed GED questions on the math test and how to help students with the concepts of these problems. Participants learned that math involves memory, language, sequencing, spacial ordering, critical thinking, number sense, reasoning, good problem-solving strategies, and making connections. Students and teachers compared graphs designed to solve the following problem:  
SEND + MORE = MONEY

Plans are also underway for summer professional development for adult educators. Sessions will cover brain based learning, differentiating instruction, and technology.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

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

### professional rejuvenation...personal recreation Iowa will host 2008 MVAEA conference!

*by Dale Amunson*

Iowa will host the 2008 MVAEA conference! It will be held July 16-18, 2008, at a brand new destination park at Honey Creek State Park at Lake Rathbun, which is located in Iowa between Centerville and Albia. Steve Allison will chair the conference committee with assistance from Dale Amunson.

Holding a summer conference is different for MVAEA (which traditionally hosts its conference in the spring) as well as for IALL (which generally has a fall conference). While the conference timeframe is an exception for both organizations, we hope that as adult educators we can think beyond the box to support such a tremendous joint conference event.

This conference provides a unique opportunity to utilize Iowa's newest recreational and educational facility! The conference will be held in the beautiful new conference center currently under development. This facility will be alongside a new 18-hole golf course and will be close to camping sites, water sports, and more. Thus, the conference should provide opportunities for professional rejuvenation and personal recreation. You may want to bring your families and combine the conference with vacation time!

Mark your calendars now to attend the 2008 MVAEA conference in Iowa!

## MVAEA

**Happenings in the Valley**

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

### Editor

Shari Kiple

### Contributors

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<http://www.worldwidelearn.com/>

You'll find hundreds of online courses, accredited degree programs, certificates, professional continuing education, and learning resources in 144 subject areas offered by educational institutions, companies, and individuals from all over the world. See what's out there! *Site suggested by Jim Lightbody.*

<http://www.alternativestudentloan.com/continuing-education-loan.php>

This site provides information about continuing education and distance learning loans for adult students. *Site suggested by Jim Lightbody.*

<http://www.uidaho.edu/eo/distglan.html>

This Web site features 13 guides to distance education topics including teaching strategies, copyright information, and a glossary of terms. *Site suggested by Jim Lightbody.*

<http://library.syr.edu/digital/guides/a/AlexanderNCharters/collections.htm>

This is an exceptional Web resource featuring descriptions of various adult and continuing education collections available online. *Site suggested by Jim Lightbody.*

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/weblinks/index.html>

Containing links to a wide variety of sites with publications, resources, and information on adult education and literacy topics, this Web site is dedicated to enhancing the field of adult education. *Site suggested by Jim Lightbody.*

<http://www.ncsall.net/?id=35>

A downloadable resource entitled *Beyond the GED: Making Conscious Choices About the GED and Your Future*, this guide for GED instructors offers lesson plans and helps teachers develop as professionals. It also allows adult learners to practice writing, use graphs, read charts, and analyze research findings on the economic impact of the GED. *Site suggested by the National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy.*

## Upcoming MVAEA conference schedule

### Wednesday, April 18

- 8:30-11:30 a.m. MVAEA Board Meeting
- 12:00-6:00 p.m. Registration Open
- 1:00-4:00 p.m. Leadership Academy
- 4:00-6:00 p.m. Iowa Hospitality Reception

### Thursday, April 19

- All Day* Vendors Available
- Silent Auction begins
- 7:30-8:30 a.m. President's Breakfast (invitation only)
- 7:00 a.m. Registration Open
- 7:30-8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
- Introduction of Vendors
- 8:30 a.m. Welcome
- Keynote Speaker: Willie Nesbit, Director of Community Education, St. Paul, Minnesota
- 10:15-11:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch
- MVAEA Business Meeting
- 1:15-2:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
- 2:15-2:40 p.m. Break
- 2:40-3:40 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
- 3:45-4:45 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
- 5:00-6:00 p.m. Reception (cash bar)
- 5:45 p.m. Silent Auction closes
- 6:00 p.m. Banquet/Awards Presentation Entertainment

### Friday, April 20

- 7:30-8:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:00-10:00 a.m. General Session: Tou Ger Xiong
- 10:00 a.m. Closing Remarks
- Presentation of the Herd Award

**ON  
THE  
WEB**  
resources  
you can  
put to work  
right now

# CONSULTANT'S

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

**R** I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming Missouri Valley Adult Education spring conference in Bloomington, Minn. If you are planning to attend the upcoming conference, your MVAEA membership dues will be included with the registration fees. If you are unable to join us this year, please remember to send your membership dues and completed membership form (below, or available online at [www.mvaea.com](http://www.mvaea.com)).

Your MVAEA membership dues include *Happenings in the Valley* newsletter (5 issues per year), the 2007-08 MVAEA membership directory, and professional development opportunities, along with networking potential that spans a seven-state region!

If you have any questions about your MVAEA membership, or if you have suggestions regarding our service to you, I would encourage you to contact me. You can call me at 507-243-4347 or e-mail me at [sluhring@myclearwave.net](mailto:sluhring@myclearwave.net).

Hope to see you at the upcoming conference. Best wishes for a great spring!

## Coming Up

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>April 18</b>    | MVAEA Leadership Academy<br>Bloomington, Minn. |
| <b>April 19-20</b> | MVAEA Conference<br>Bloomington, Minn.         |
| <b>May 10</b>      | Deadline for <i>Happenings in the Valley</i>   |

## Back by popular demand!

### TOP 10 THINGS TO DO IN THE MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL AREA

10. Explore the Minnesota Sculpture Garden
9. Take a tour of downtown St. Paul or explore the sights and sounds of downtown Minneapolis
8. Eat your way throughout the Twin Cities ... there are some fantastic restaurants
7. Check out the Minneapolis Institute of Arts
6. Attend a performance at the Guthrie Theater
5. Visit the Walker Art Center
4. Trek the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
3. Consider a show at the Minneapolis Children's Theatre (fun for all ages)
2. Shop at Mall of America, Nicollet Mall, the IKEA store, and more
1. Attend the MVAEA spring conference on April 18-20!

## 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 9 for contact information).