

NEWSLETTER

Mountain Plains Adult Education Association

ARIZONA COLORADO IDAHO MONTANA NEVADA NEW MEXICO UTAH WYOMING

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Newsletter, June 2005



Overview of the 2005 Annual MPAEA Conference

By Chuck Humphrey

The glow of our 63rd annual conference in Jackson is still with me, and I hope that it's still with you! The registrants totaled 275; I tried to take digital photos of them all. Cheryl Keenan, the first keynote speaker said that "Mountain Plains states are among the fastest growing in our nation." She went on to say that subpopulations in the US are changing: the fastest growing counties are Clark County, Nevada; Douglas County, Colorado; and Maricopa County, Arizona – all member states of MPAEA!

Awards, scholarships, several retiring from the board; we celebrated all these things at the Snow King Resort in Jackson, Wyoming from April 13-16th. Stories and pictures of those activities are in this issue. Who can forget the words of Dr. Glen Jensen while giving his response to the Life Time Achievement Award, especially the advice he got from the young librarian who told him, "...never stop learning!"

For those of you who attended the "Adult Education on Trial" sessions, you got your money's worth. I'm told this was the third reenactment (replication?) of this event in our 63-year history. Bill Draves and Cheryl Keenan's keynote speeches were "worth the money", too. I made better notes of Cheryl's speech that I did of Bill Draves. Here's some more of what Cheryl said: Forty percent of American workers have inadequate literacy skills (data from the Conference Board, 2004). By 2006, two thirds of all jobs will require skills beyond the high school level. Data show that the more education you have, the more you will volunteer and serve on a committee. Dropout students have become "stopouts". Several of you have gotten copies of Cheryl's PowerPoint slides and are using them in your local programs, I'm told.

The "file" of my digital pictures from the conference weighed in at 24 megabytes, causing me to have to ask for additional storage at our website in order to place it there. I hope you're enjoying those pictures. If you want more, contact Pat Thorpe; her husband took "a bunch", and with a better camera!

Other interesting items in this issue include Kathleen Robinson's news about continuing education in Utah, especially at the off campus sites of Utah State University. You thought adult, extension and continuing ed in northern Utah was all done by Andy Shinkle? Not so, according to Kathleen's report. Plus, there's some State News (with more coming in the September issue). Enjoy this convention issue; it's a keeper! And.....it will be available at the MPAEA Website even before you receive it in the mail. Hope you are having a good summer!

Conference Issue

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MPAEA Newsletter

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Glen Jensen receives MPAEA's First Ever Lifetime Achievement Award

By Mike Clark, Wyoming board member



Dr. Glen S. Jensen

Dr. Glen S. Jensen, a founder of the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association, received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 63rd annual conference in Jackson, Wyoming, on April 16th. Dr. Jensen was a founding father of the Commission

of Professors of Adult Education and is recognized for his contributions to the national and regional associations. He was the second executive director of the Adult Education Association of the United States (AEAUSA) from 1959 to 1963 and later served as its president. Dr. Jensen was the department head of the adult education program at the University of Wyoming where he helped found the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA). As part of MPAEA, he guided the creation of the *MPAEA Journal of Adult Education* as an outlet for the research of graduate students.

The development of the University of Wyoming graduate program and his work with graduate students earned him the label of "Mr. Adult Educator." He has remained committed to the constant reexamination of accepted norms in the field, emphasizing personal development through adult education. Dr. Jensen's commitment to inter-agency cooperation was also evident in the development of Adult Basic Education for the Wyoming State Department of Education. His multi-faceted approach involved adult education agencies, community colleges, welfare and employment agencies.

Dr. Jensen has left a legacy of integrity and commitment to continuing education through the many students who had the opportunity to work with him. In a recent interview he stated that, "the professional successes of his former students and colleagues were the best indication of any success he has attained. Dr. Jensen was a 2003 inductee into the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame. He and his wife live in Rapid City, South Dakota, after living in Aberdeen, SD for many years. In accepting his award, Dr. Jensen told about how he and his wife were directed to the MPAEA website to get more details about coming to this year's conference; its theme, and its program offerings. Because they don't have a computer the Jensen's went to the local library and got help accessing the web site. In the process a young female librarian told Glen it's not too late to learn how to use a computer. "Never stop learning!" she said. Appropriate words of advice to a man whose advice to graduate students, journal readers, and adult education practitioners spans over 70 years.

Anita Raynor is our new president



Anita Raynor and Patricia Thorpe

Anita C. Raynor, who is director of adult basic education at New Mexico State University – Alamogordo, was elected president of the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA) at its 63rd annual conference in Jackson, Wyoming. She

assumed her duties at the end of the conference at noon on Saturday, April 16th. Anita has been one of the MPAEA board members from New Mexico before becoming president-elect in 2004. Look for a special message from Anita in the September 2005 MPAEA newsletter. Until then, you can reach her at: NMSU-Alamogordo, 2400 North Scenic Drive, Alamogordo, NM 88310. Work Phone: (505) 439-3812; Fax: (505) 439-3810. E-mail: <raynor@nmsua.nmsu.edu>

Congratulations to MPAEA Award Winners Announced at 2005 Annual Conference

Kathleen Holmes, board member of Colorado and chair of the Awards Committee, announced some dynamite winners of awards at the 2005 annual conference. Her PowerPoint slide show took on the appearance of an academy awards presentation. The winners were in three categories: Award of Excellence; Learner and Educator of the Year; and Legislator of the Year. A story about the Lifetime Achievement Award given to Dr. Glenn Jensen appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

Receiving the **Award of Excellence** were Kathleen Price; Cathy Calderwood; Peggy Nelson; Dixie Stark; Jackie Kearns; Nick Evangelista and Joan Evans. *Kathleen Price* oversees the Central Phoenix (AZ) Learning Center at Rio Salado College. She has gone from teaching English as a Second Language two nights a week to being coordinator of Arizona's largest program. She has also helped author the citizenship portion of state standards for adult basic education in her state.

Cathy Calderwood's citation reads, "Business Major Makes Good". Cathy has been director of the adult learning center for Ignacio and Bayfield, Colorado (she recently left that job to form her own adult education company). In that capacity she helped increase the annual budget from \$25,000 to \$500,000. Her program serves over 600 students in a town with a population of 800. Cathy has served on the MPAEA board and as our secretary for the last two years. She'll also be long remembered for her exceptional 50/50 fundraising at annual conferences.

Peggy Nelson is writing a novel (as her doctoral dissertation) about her great-great grandfather who once lived in Colorado. However, she received the award of excellence for Idaho

because she's been and ABE English instructor and later ABE director at Eastern Idaho Technical College in Idaho Falls. She currently serves as the General Education division manager at the EITC. Also an MPAEA board member, she recently chaired the Constitution Committee.

Dixie Stark blew away the competition for Montana's award of excellence by having a demonstrated ability to strategically think and act; combined with passion and commitment. She has been a leader: K-12 workforce coordinator and Head Start; a presenter: national literacy conferences, MPAEA and Montana adult ed conferences; and a board member for the Montana Adult & Continuing Education Ass'n (MACE) and MPAEA. About her efforts to bring literacy to Montanans, Dixie's nomination for this award stated, "...potential success of her students is the highest priority".

Jackie Kearns citation reads, "After boarding school [she] taught in Uganda. What a way to begin a career in adult education. She survived four governments' coups in that African country, and returned to her "next career" in Nevada. Jackie is now the branch manager for Job Opportunities, plus overseeing a high school diploma program and being an instructor at Great Basin Community College in Winnemucca. Her community service includes being a GED examiner and board member for United Way. Who can forget Jackie's unique way of wearing her cowboy hat during the "Cowboy Up!" annual MPAEA conference in Reno?"

For *Nick Evangelista*, 30 years of adult education and social change made him a great nominee for the New Mexico Award of Excellence. Nick's soft-spoken demeanor has had a profound effect on education and management in our nation's 47th state. He is the founder of several educational councils in New Mexico, and is credited with bring that that's adult education back from the brink of disaster. His peers say, "His actions stopped derailment of all adult education in New Mexico..." under a previous Republican governor.

Aggressive, forward thinking and professional; that's how adult educators describe *Joan Evans* back in Wyoming. She has developed programs for certifying of construction workers, child care providers, health care workers, customer service representatives, and the hospitality industry. Her leadership resulted in the purchasing of buildings for the Little Snake Valley Outreach, which created a hub of education for the community. She also chairs the Carbon County, Wyoming Library Foundation, and recently assisted with the self-study task force for accreditation of Western Wyoming Community College.

Learner and Educator of the Year Awards (presented to a host state recipient)

Pat Nesbit from Gillette, Wyoming received the Learner of the Year Award. He serves on the Gillette Abuse Refuge Foundation Board, is active in United Way and is on the advisory board for Tech Prep School-to-Work career education. He earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of

of Wyoming this year, and has been accepted into UW's masters' in counseling program starting in 2006. *Margylou Fernau* was given the Educator of the Year Award. She is credited with opening the Niobrara Learning Center in 1995, and her name is synonymous with GED and ABE in the Lusk, WY area. One of her peers has said, "When I get paperwork from Margylou, it is always prompt and I never have to wonder if it is correct...." A student reported, "Sometimes I thought I should just quit...or strangle her."

Legislator of the Year Award (also presented to a host state recipient)

Bill Vasey, a "big guy" (newsletter editor's observation), received the Legislator of the Year Award, acknowledging his lifelong love affair with Wyoming and education. Mr. Vasey was an educator and administrator in Wyoming for many years, and is currently a state senator from Carbon County. He works tirelessly for funding colleges and the University of Wyoming; his nominators say he has prevented many harmful bills from becoming law. Recently he was awarded Emeritus status by the Wyoming Lifelong Learning Association.

Professional Development Scholarship Winners Announced at the 2005 Annual Conference

Congratulations to the four winners of the **\$500 MPAEA Professional Development Scholarships for 2005**. According to Marcie Hanson, all four used the scholarship money to attend the annual conference in Jackson, Wyoming in April.

Paulette Church, Durango, Colorado reported that she learned a great deal at the conference and took back materials and ideas to share with her staff. The information provided by speaker Cheryl Keenan from the US Department of Education was so timely for Paulette that she secured a copy of Cheryl's PowerPoint slide presentation to share when she returned home.

Victoria Clark, who is an adult/community educator in Darby, Montana found the conference speakers and sessions informative on several levels. The conference inspired Victoria to announce to her family and friends when she returned home that she is going to pursue a Masters of Arts in /Adult Education and Post Secondary Education from the University of Wyoming via online coursework.

Russell Collett from the School of Continuing & Adult Education, Utah Valley State College, Orem, Utah reported that there was an abundance of practical and mind-stretching sessions at the conference, where he enjoyed the sharing of ideas, best practices, and networking with colleagues. Russ is certain that "...us country folks will not be selling our pick-up trucks, nor moving to the big cities in order to be more efficient with our time" (one of the conference speakers predicted that by the year 2020 half of all adult learning will be done Online).

Anita Raynor, ABE Director, New Mexico State University, Alamogordo (and this year's MPAEA president) said that by receiving this scholarship she was able to take two students to

the MPAEA Conference, and those students presented a workshop for educators and students.

Anita also presented a packed session entitled, Graduation Ceremonies.

Professional Development Scholarships to State Associations

The following states received a \$500 MPAEA State Professional Development Scholarship to be used to help with expenses at their state convention: *Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming*

In order to receive these scholarships, states had to apply for them. So..... y'all remember to apply "early" next year, you hear?!

NEWS FROM ARIZONA

By Myna Frestedt

In Arizona one approach for instruction in the classroom and beyond is to combine language skills, civics education, and advocacy. It is practiced at the Pima College Adult Education program in Tucson as reported here.

If We Don't Tell Our Stories, Who Will? - Digital Storytelling in Adult Education

by Jennifer Nowicki

The Arizona Association for Lifelong Learning (AALL) sponsored a staff development day at Cochise College in Benson, Arizona. One of the highlights of this event was a three part digital storytelling workshop, which was co-presented by Ami Magisos and Jennifer Nowicki of Pima College Adult Education's Civics and Citizenship Program and Jim Lively, Lead Teacher of Adult Education in Douglas, AZ. The computer lab was packed with diverse participants, including ESOL, GED and Family Literacy instructors, AmeriCorps members and a group of students who came with their instructor from Blackwater Elementary School Family Literacy Site in the Gila River Indian Community.

The main objectives of the workshop were to familiarize participants with the importance of storytelling in our community, discuss the process of crafting a "civics" story and provide an orientation to the Microsoft Moviemaker software. With Moviemaker, oral narratives can be put together with images and special effects to create a multi-media digital story, which can then be shared on CD, DVD, video or on a website.

"Judging by the numbers of participants who came to all three workshops, there is a tremendous amount of interest in personal stories," said Jim Lively, one of the co-presenters. "Our stories illustrate that we are unique - they distinguish us from everyone else. And, the technology is very accessible. That's a big plus! When we master the process of the digital story, we become a force for change and understanding in this world of ours." Throughout the training, many sample digital stories were shown which represented such civic themes as healthcare and funding for adult education. Participants compared the different

elements of these stories and shared ideas with each other about possible uses and themes for their own projects.

"I like to learn about this so I can help students show a day in their life- all the things they go through," commented Maria Belen Mejia, an AmeriCorps member who is working in Tucson with Project RAISE, a program for adult students with developmental disabilities. "It's a good way to get students to express themselves in creative ways. And with the technology, you can reach many people." This training provided a strong starting point for many people who would like to incorporate more storytelling into their classes or programs and who are interested in new ways of presenting those stories. We look forward to seeing the next steps that participants will take in their own or their students' digital storytelling projects.

NEWS FROM NEVADA

By Jackie Kearns

News from Nevada includes the item that Teri Zutter from Western Nevada Community College is the MPAEA president for 2006 - 7. Teri coordinates the GED programs run under the College for the Carson City area, and oversees indirectly those run in satellite locations. She is a dedicated, enabling educator with a flair for merchandising and marketing, upbeat in her approach to situations, and has a humorous twist. Her spouse is an information manager, now working with the 17 School Districts out of the State Department of Education to make use of the online GED study program. Again, location of students and distance from a center is driving this effort dear to Teri's heart.

Since Nevada is either last or near last in the 18 - 25+ age group with secondary education completed, there is a strong campaign led by the Governor to do what it takes to make study programs available to those who want/need to complete. All GED centers are being made aware of how to get into the community of employers and get their input and support on how to make the GED preparation part of this age group's life goals

Nevada is also working to re-establish the state association for adult educators. Given our population distribution, and the widely divergent levels of adult education with which instructors and teachers deal, the questions of where to hold a conference, and whether or not to stream membership in the organization are being asked and discussed wherever a group happens to meet. The one point of agreement so far is that an association is needed, and unofficially steps are being taken to make that happen within 2005, whether it is a revitalized NAEA or a differently structured and named organization. Keep tuned...

NEWS FROM UTAH

By Kathleen Robinson

Recently, Utah State University's continuing education centers graduated 650 non-traditional students. The majority of these students work full time, while raising families and attending

college part-time in order to complete Associate, Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Governor Jon Huntsman attended the Spring 2005 ceremony at the Tooele Branch Campus and was the keynote speaker.

Utah State University serves 14,000 students throughout the course of the year who are unable to attend the main campus in Logan. Over the next two months, USU graduation ceremonies will also take place at Draper and Gunnison Prisons, where inmates will receive degrees ranging from High School diplomas to Associate, to Master's.

Conference Pictures



Vichet Sum (B.Ed., M.B.A),
The MPAEA 2005 conference
speaker from Cambodia.



Betty Maridon, adult basic
educator from Las Vegas,
wowed the conference with her
many different outfits!



Mike Tomlin, past board member from Idaho and former MPAEA *Journal* editor, chats with two of his University of Idaho graduate students



Gilbert Zamora from New Mexico and his wife, standing near the Refreshments and Exhibits area.



Idaho folks (left to right) Bob Croker, Amy Wu, Litz (Jenny) Lee, Su-Chuan (Susan) Chao join Dee Brighton from Glendale, Arizona at the opening session of the 63rd annual MPAEA conference in Jackson, Wyoming.



Glen Jensen and his wife, Mary, doing retiree exercises at Su-Chuan Chao's presentation.



Dixie Stark, Loma Prince, Peggy Nelson, and Cathy Calderwood were thanked for their good work.



Wyoming thorns with an Idaho Rose (left to right): John Tollakson, Burt Sisco, Paul Kipper, Paul Larson, Marjorie Slotten, and Curtis Smeby from Montana State University-Northern.



Right to left: Yvonne Hauwiller from Montana; Marge Slotten and Kathy Vickerman from Idaho; and Terry Teigler from Utah at the Past President's Breakfast.

MPAEA Journal of Adult Education

The *MPEAE Journal of Adult Education* is reference journal intended to serve as a voice for the translation of theory to practice for the membership of the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (MPAEA). The Editors of the *MPEAE Journal of Adult Education* encourage the submission of clearly written research articles, technique manuscript, and book reviews which have the potential of stimulating thought, discussion, and inquiry.

The criteria for evaluating each manuscript will be based upon:

- (a) potential contribution to the improvement and/ or understanding of practice,
- (b) clarity of purpose,
- (c) logical relationship to conceptual base,
- (d) writing style,
- (e) general scholarship,
- (f) strength of conclusions,
- (g) implications for practice,
- (h) adherence to submission guidelines.

Those interested in submitting manuscripts to the Journal should send four copies of the article to:

Dr. Andy Shinkle and Dr. Pam Dupin-Bryant
 Editors, MPAEA Journal of Adult Education
 Utah State University-Brigham City
 265 West 1100 South,
 Brigham City, UT 84 302
andys@ext.usu.edu
 435-799-1784

Article Categories for the Journal

MPEAE Journal of Adult Education accepts submissions in the following categories:

Research Articles. Discussion concepts, theory, and research findings of particular interest and significance to adult education professionals. Maximum length: 3500 words including abstract, figures, and references.

Technique Articles. Describe examples of innovative practice and procedures in relationship to recognized principles of adult education research and practice. Maximum length: 1000 words including abstract, figures, and references.

Book Reviews. Describe the content of a book, evaluate the book's success in accomplishing the intended purpose, and give a recommendation based on the book's relevance and benefits to adult education professionals. Maximum length: 1000 words. Do not include an abstract.

Letters to Editors. Readers are invited to submit letters, rebuttals, and comments related to published articles or ideas reflected in the MPAEA Journal of Adult Education. Letters should be no longer than on typewritten page.

MPAEA Membership Application

Please select type of membership, return form with dues to:

Sandra Grant
 Utah State Office of Education
 PO Box 144200
 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200

Membership applying for: (Please check one)

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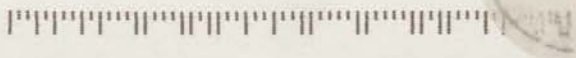
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Upcoming Events

- Oct. 23-25, 2005: *Idaho Lifelong Learning Association's* annual conference at the Sun Valley Lodge and Inn (near Ketchum). For more information, contact: Martha (Marty) Yopp; University of Idaho-Boise, 800 Park Blvd, Suite 200, Boise, ID 83712; 208-364-4035 (FAX); <myopp@uidaho.edu> (Editor's note: Deadline for proposals was June 1, but they're still being accepted.)

- Oct. 26-29, 2005: *ProLiteracy Worldwide's* annual professional development conference at the Tucson, AZ Starr Pass Marriott Resort. For more information, contact Rochelle Cassella, 1320 Jamesville Ave, Syracuse, NY 13210; (315) 422-9121, Ext. 353; <rcassella@proliteracy.org>

- Nov 12-15, 2005: *National Association for Adults with Special Learning Needs* international conference, GRAND HYATT HOTEL, DENVER, COLORADO. For more information, contact: NAASLN/CEA, 4380 Forbes Boulevard, Lanham, MD 20706; 800-496-9222; <www.NAASLN.org>

- April 2006: *Annual MPAEA conference in Denver*, hosted by Coloradoans. Details in September and December 05 issues of the newsletter

- April 2007: *Annual MPAEA conference in Idaho*; tentative location is Coeur d'Alene. Details in a future newsletter, and at the 2006 annual conference in Denver.