

AAACE Newsletter

American Association for Adult and Continuing Education

December 2014

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Notes from the President

Jean Fleming, AAACE President

It's now December and time once again to reflect on the past, engage in the present, and prepare for the future. This is true not only for each of us in our personal and professional lives, but also for AAACE. Thanks to the leadership of Steven Schmidt, Immediate Past-President, and the AAACE Board of Directors, this past year has been a time of professionalization and expansion for the association, placing us in a perfect position to continue creating an exciting future for our members. We remain fiscally sound and have begun to invest funds with an eye to developing long-term financial planning. Our membership continues to grow, now totaling over 800 members, spurring plans to strategically reach out to past members as well as educate new individuals and associations on the benefits of joining AAACE.

This recruitment effort – which is being taken on by our 3R's Task Force - necessitates a review of association services to ensure that what we provide our members is truly valuable. One example of a new service coming to members in 2015 is a webinar initiative, with requests coordinated through our Commissions and Special Interest Groups. Additionally, we hope all our members are taking advantage of the ability to access their journals of choice on-line, either Adult Learning or Adult Education Quarterly, in addition to reading the Journal of Transformative Education online, which is offered at no charge to members. More membership benefits and information may be accessed through our website at <http://www.aaace.org/membership-benefit>

To ensure members are kept up-to-date, able to connect with colleagues, and receive quality service, an Operations Review Committee has been formed to begin benchmarking and implementing best practices of non-profit membership associations. Related to this review will be a focus on our website and on the basic structure and governing documents of the association. Another area of focus in the coming year, in response to recent invitations, will be collaborations with other associations both national and international in scope. Of course the annual conference will continue to provide a unique venue where adult, community, and continuing educators are able to come together to share their experiences and perspectives, and provide one another the support and inspiration necessary to continue making a difference in the lives of adult learners and their communities.

Thank you to all of you for your commitment to AAACE and to the efforts you make to enrich our association and keep it strong and unique. I look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead of us to work together to honor the mission and vision of our association and to embrace our true potential as leaders in the field of adult and continuing education.



Jean Fleming
2015 AAACE President

Reflections on AAACE - 2014

Steven Schmidt, AAACE Past-President

I returned to my office at East Carolina University on the Monday after our Charleston conference ended, and I was amazed to open my email account and find many fewer messages waiting for me than usual. I am guessing that Jean Fleming, our new president, found the exact opposite to be true when she accessed her email account on the Monday after the conference. While we prepare for the transition of leadership for many months, the actual transition, itself, happens fairly quickly, as people assume their new positions and get busy with their new assignments and tasks right away. I think that's a good thing, as it means that we, as an organization, are preparing our leaders to make smooth transitions with no disruption of service to our members. While it is strange to shift gears to a new set of responsibilities as past president, it is exciting to see what Jean and Margaret Eggleston, our new president-elect, have already begun working on.

As I reflect on my year as president, what comes to mind first is the dedication and commitment of all the people who give of themselves to better our association and to move our profession forward. There is a lot of work involved with keeping AAACE going, and so many of you are involved in that work. I have enjoyed

Commission for
Community, Minority and
Non-Formal Education
(CCMNFE)

J. Bernard Bradley
Commission for Distance
Learning and Technology
(CDLT)

Marcie Boucouvalas
Commission for
International Adult
Education (CIAE)

Larry Martin
Commission for Professors
of Adult Education (CPAE)

Steve McCaskey
Commission for Program
Management (CPM)

Open
Commission for Workforce
and Professional
Development (CWPD)

Newsletter Editors

Jean Fleming

& Jill Zarestky

meeting and working with many of you, and I have been continually amazed by the dedication, knowledge, skills, and energy that all of you who are involved with AAACE bring to the table. You have helped make my term as president an enjoyable and exciting one, and I look forward to continued work with you in my new role.

Charleston Conference Recap

The PowerPoint presentations of the conference keynote speakers are now accessible by a link posted on the AAACE website and the 2014 Conference home page. A link to conference photos is posted there as well - keep checking back for more photos!

Michelle Glowacki-Dudka, Former AAACE Director-At-Large

Almost 500 "Adult Educators: Making a Difference" could be found Charleston, South Carolina this year for the AAACE 63rd annual conference. The North Charleston venue was inviting and intentionally created space for learning, dialogue, and engagement in the Embassy Suites and the Convention Center. The opportunities for informal and nonformal learning grew this year with a larger Connections Central and a new AAACE Central and local conference bookstore, as well as an exhibitor room and set of highlighted poster sessions. Having many ways to meet and greet with colleagues and new friends, helps this conference to be warm and welcoming to past attendees, newcomers, graduate students, and practitioners.

Beginning on Sunday, November 7, 2014, the Commission for International Adult Education (CIAE) set the stage for a week of intense learning and new opportunities with a lovely opening reception and an invitation to be more involved with next year's International Council of Adult Education (ICAE) in Montreal. On Monday, the presentations moved in a marathon style with 20 sessions clustered with common themes and nations. Researchers from Italy began the marathon and shared how this meeting has truly broadened their practice in faculty development at the University of Padua and across their country, as well as how it sparked the creation of a new international online journal: "Excellence and Innovation in Teaching and Learning Research and Practice," beginning in May of 2015. Tuesday concluded this meeting with the annual update from Dr. John Henschke about new articles using andragogy from around the world. Kudos to Dr. Marcie Boucouvalas for another great pre-conference.

Tuesday afternoon opened the full conference with Dr. Victoria Marsick sharing about her research in "Informal Learning: Re-framing and Re-tooling to Meet Emerging Needs". She reminded us that informal learning is a way for learners to ride the bike rather than the bus in their own exploration of knowledge. Formal organizations can support their employees, learners, or clients to be informal learners by trusting the learner, assuming capability and motivation, removing barriers, and providing support. Much can be said for modeling the learning and creating structures and communication that promote it. This presentation was followed by the opening of the exhibit hall and a round of exhibitor bingo. Thank you to Steve Frye for organizing the games and fun this year.

The days of the conference moved fast and filled both our brains and bellies with abundant and delicious food that will nourish us for the coming year. On top of all the concurrent sessions, roundtables, posters, and featured sessions, the keynote presentations and panels were inspiring and quite varied this year. Here are some of the highlights that I noted over the week.

Wednesday morning Dr. Behrang Foroughi woke us up to an international community development conversation that resonated with me bringing in notions of Freire, Horton, and the best of working with – not upon – communities in their own interests. He shared moments of laughter where people nurture power within themselves; moments of analysis in order to reflect on what is happening; moments of wisdom with entry points to change and the power to do; and moments of imagination with the solidarity of others and power with to imagine and act. His analysis of special moments in this work was profound and hopeful in this continuous and much needed work. As he shared, "communities happen in these moments".

At lunch, Dr. Johan Uvin, acting assistant secretary in the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education presented the federal agenda for adult learning, literacy, and workforce development in the next few years. He shared information about future funding opportunities for apprenticeships, online skill development, and other ways for training to reach all workers, not just those at the top of the job path. Many people enjoyed the Night in Historic Charleston with beautiful weather and almost a full moon.

Thursday began early for the graduate student breakfast panel listening to Dr. Carrie Boden-McGill, Dr. Joellen Coryell, and Dr. Larry Martin share experiences and thoughts about hiring, publishing, and networking with conferences. Early engagement with professional colleagues is always a benefit for finding a place in the field and the Graduate Student SIG, led by Michelle Johnson, is a key resource in that regard. A thought-provoking panel of military veterans, preceded the awards luncheon. Dr. Sarah Jane Fishback, from a fifth generation military background, invited her doctoral students to share their research into "The Impact of Combat Experience on Veteran Students in Adult Learning Environments." With 22 million veterans in the U.S., these issues are current and relevant to adult classrooms at all levels across the country. We wish all three panelists success and safety in their continued service.

The Commission for Professors of Adult Education (CPAE) opened with Dr. Ron Cervero sharing his insights into ways to "negotiate effectively to understand and strengthen strategic assets aligned with your institutional

mission and funding". As higher education continues to change its funding structure and focus on mission and purpose, adult education programs are not always aligned with the administration. In order to better position adult education programs, it is important to pay attention and be proactive by "pursuing your mission relentlessly", as well as "following the money".

The final AAACE session on Friday was led by Dr. Dan Pratt and he got us to think in new ways about learner engagement. He reminded us about key research in using prior knowledge, emotions, testing, and feedback to keep learners active and engaged. With that note, we welcomed the new AAACE board and concluded the conference with the annual business meeting.

Every year this conference builds on the past ones, thank you to all who have chaired the conference in previous years. Dr. Jean Fleming did an excellent job to bring together all the pieces, and she made a difference in creating spaces for adult education to occur at the 2014 conference.

We hope to see you again next year, November 17-20, 2014 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, with the conference theme "Evolutions and Revolutions in Adult Learning".

2015 Annual Conference Update

Margaret Eggleston, 2015 Conference Chair and AAACE President-elect

Greetings All!

This is a reminder to save the date for our 64th AAACE Annual Conference, November 17-20, at the Renaissance Oklahoma City Convention Center Hotel in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma! Continuing a long-standing tradition, the Commission on International Adult Education (CIAE) will host a pre-conference on November 15-17, and the Commission of Professors of Adult Education (CPAE) co-conference will be held November 19-20. We are delighted to also announce a partnership event, the Research to Practice (R2P) Conference in Adult Higher Education, on November 15-17. The R2P conference is hosted by the University of Central Oklahoma, Adult Education and Safety Sciences Department. There is even more in store, as AAACE hosts the International Hall of Fame induction ceremony on November 18th.

The theme for our 2015 conference is Evolutions and Revolutions in Adult Learning and is sure to inspire exciting and engaging perspectives on adult learning. It encompasses reflections on the past and promises for the future. The theme promotes forward thinking and respect for the trajectory of adult learning thus far. In addition, the theme supports exploration of adult learning across generations, and adventures in teaching, training, and learning methods.

The Call for Proposals is scheduled to open in February 2015. Be sure to watch email or check the aaace.org website for that announcement. Additional information, such as early bird conference and hotel registration, will be posted and updated on the website as well.

Wishing you the best of what's left of 2014 and a Happy New Year! See you in Oklahoma City!

Awards, Elections, and Transitions

AAACE confers several categories of awards to recognize and honor exemplary contributions to adult continuing education. The awards are a highly visible component of the association's statement about standards of excellence in the field. Watch for the call for award nominations each spring and consider nominating outstanding people and programs for the awards. Watch also for the call for nominations for elections to the board of directors and consider whether you or a colleague might want to assume one of these leadership roles. Visit aaace.org for more information on the awards and election processes and AAACE's newly elected members of the Board of Directors.

Award Recipients 2014

Cyril O. Houle Award for Outstanding Literature in Adult Education:

André P. Grace, Ph. D., University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada

Lifelong Learning as Critical Action: International Perspectives on People, Politics, Policy, and Practice.
(Toronto, Ontario: Canadian Scholars' Press, 2013.)

Malcolm Knowles Award for Outstanding Adult Education Program:

Reach Higher Completion Program, University of Central Oklahoma

Lori M. Risley, Ed. D., and Kristi Archuleta, Ed. D., University of Central Oklahoma.

Imogene Okes Award for Outstanding Research in Adult Education:

Wendy Jean Sonstrom, Ph.D., John R. Rachal, Ed.D., and Richard S. Mohn, Ph. D., University of Southern Mississippi

"The Commission of Professors of Adult Education 2008 Standards as evidenced in the curricula of doctoral education in North America," published 2013 in *Adult Education Quarterly* 63 (2), 147-164.
doi:10.1177/0741713612447855.

Outstanding Service Medallion:
Dean Barbara S. Calhoun, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA

Board of Director Member Elections

Welcome to AAACE's newly elected President-elect, Margaret Eggleston, Secretary, Jill Zarestky, and Director-at-large, Jonathan Taylor! The President-elect is elected for one year, but moves to President for one year and then Past President for an additional year. The Secretary and Directors-at-large each serve two year terms.

Transitions

Margaret Eggleston became president-elect of AAACE at the 2014 conference after completing her term as Director for the Commission on Workforce and Professional Development (CWPD). Her leadership over the years has re-energized this commission, successfully building its membership and influence within the association. A new director will be in place in the new year.

Jim Berger received the President's Appreciation Award from President Steve Schmidt, for his tireless efforts over the years as AAACE Treasurer. Jim added stability and clarity to our financial concerns, allowing us to more readily determine how best to continue moving in positive directions. His service was notable and we look forward to Jim being involved with AAACE in other capacities in the future. Chad Hoggan accepted the position of treasurer for 2014-2015 and has already proven he will be building on Jim's work, continuing to help us set sound fiscal goals and priorities.

Shelly Glowacki-Dudka completed her term as AAACE Director-At-Large but will continue to be part of association work in the future year. Her efforts at revitalizing the Special Interest Groups and her numerous contributions to the conferences are among the reasons we are grateful for her service on the Board.

Jonathan Taylor completed his term as AAACE Secretary, but remains on the Board of Directors as Director-At-Large. We appreciate his work as secretary and look forward to his continued contributions to the association in a variety of roles.

Libby Tisdell also completed her term as Director for the Commission of Professors of Adult Education (CPAE). Her leadership made possible many of the initiatives of CPAE during this past year that contributed to the professionalization of CPAE and of the association overall. Larry Martin assumed the role of CPAE Director and we are eager to benefit from his experience and guidance.

At the 2014 conference, the Board recognized and thanked Past President Steve Schmidt (2013-2014) for his many contributions to the organization. The standing ovation he received at the Business Meeting was an indication of the high esteem in which he is held by the association membership. Steve will serve another year on the board as Past President. Linda Morris, who was Past President, has now left the board. We appreciate her years of leadership and careful guidance in furthering the mission of the association.

Jean Fleming completed her term as president elect and 2014 conference chair, moving into the position of AAACE President. This is Jean's third time on the board and she is truly excited to be working with such a uniquely qualified and committed group of adult educators.



The AAACE 2014-2015 Board of Directors. From left, Margaret Eggleston, Marcie Boucouvalas, Federico Salas-Isnardi, Christy Rhodes, Steve McCaskey, Jean Fleming, Steve Frye, Steve Schmidt, Larry Martin, Bernard Bradley, Nancy Fire, Jonathan Taylor, and Jill Zarestky. Not pictured: Chad Hoggan.

News from the Commissions

Commission of Professors of Adult Education (CPAE)

On November 6 and 7, 2014, CPAE held its annual meeting in conjunction with the AAACE national conference. Organized to support graduate professional adult education, the CPAE was established in 1959 as a division of the AAACE. For over 55 years this organization has played a pivotal role in supporting the efforts of professors and academic programs to discover, promote and enhance the roles and functions of adult education amid periods of relative stability and tumultuous change. Under the engaged leadership of Professor Libby Tisdell (Immediate Past CPAE Chair), the meeting was attended this year by 122 CPAE members and 27 students. Historically, these annual meetings have served as focal points to enhance and extend networking opportunities, attend to the business of the organization, engage in professional learning opportunities, and plan future activities. During the next two-years, we will work to keep the momentum built by Tisdell and her leadership team. Beyond maintaining the current elements and functions of the organization, one of our more specific and immediate goals is to complete the revision of the CPAE Standards for Graduate Programs in Adult Education that was begun last year. In addition, other potential goals include determining in what ways the Commission can raise the digital profile and connectivity of the membership, and determining how we can make our membership more highly relevant in the national and international policy-level conversations about teaching and learning with and among adult learners.

The new CPAE executive committee is as follows:

Larry Martin – Chair & AAACE Commissioner (2016-2018)
University of Wis.-Milwaukee
lmartin@uwm.edu

Royce Ann Collins – Secretary/Treasurer (2013-2015)
Kansas State University
racollin@ksu.edu

Elizabeth "Libby" Tisdell – Past Chair (2016-2018)
Penn State University
ejt11@psu.edu

Members-at Large
Amelia Davis (2013-2015)
Georgia Southern University
adavis@georgiasouthern.edu

Joann Olson (2014-2016)
University of Houston-Victoria
JoannSOlson@gmail.com

Claudette Peterson (2013-2015)
North Dakota State University
claudette.peterson@ndsu.edu

Liz Roumell (2014-2016)
North Dakota State University
elizabeth.roumell@ndsu.edu

Commission for Distance Learning and Technology (CDLT)

For 2015, planned CDLT activities include: two or more webinars; two newsletters; an expanded CDLT webpage within the AAACE website; online networking and information-sharing opportunities with global reach; a new awards program; an annual commission meeting at the AAACE conference; and continued leadership and support of an association-wide educational webinar initiative. Committee chairs are still needed for (1) commission awards; (2) graduate students; and (3) research. Prospective chairs or committee members may send email to: dlt@aaace.org

With over 200 members, CDLT welcomes two new colleagues to its Leadership Team (LT) for 2015.

Leigh Ann Whittle now serves as the commission's newsletter editor. Two CDLT newsletters are planned for 2015. Leigh Ann also provides editorial support for an expanded CDLT web presence within the existing AAACE website. Leigh Ann holds an undergraduate degree in journalism and communications, as well as masters degrees in both English and Adult Education/Learning. Professionally, Leigh Ann is an instructor at Elon University and Liberty University Online. She also operates her own communications consulting firm.

Hajjun Kang is the CDLT's new social networking chair. He implements social networking efforts with global

reach to increase communication and collaboration among adult educators across academic, workplace, community, and other settings who have an interest in sharing their knowledge and practice about learning with virtual and other technologies. Dr. Kang has over fifteen years of post-secondary instructional experience with adult students in multicultural environments. As an assistant professor of adult education with Kansas State University's Global Campus, his primary interest is adult online education. Haijun also teaches a graduate course on social media for adult learners.

Leigh Ann and Haijun join Fred Prasuhn, technology chair, who is serving as both technical facilitator for CDLT webinars and webmaster for a planned expansion of its web presence within the AAACE's existing Member-Clicks platform. David Stein, CDLT co-chair, and associate professor of workforce development and adult education at The Ohio State University, continues to help lead both commission planning and peer review processes for proposals to present at the annual AAACE conference.

Commission for Community, Minority and Non-Formal Education (CCMNFE)

CCMNFE members include professionals, faculty and graduate students engaged in adult education that benefits local communities and adult learners representing all cultures and backgrounds. The membership include representatives from non-profit organizations, religious organizations, continuing education programs, social organizations, business and government organizations, community colleges, and colleges and universities.

We recently gathered at the AAACE 2014 conference in Charleston, SC and facilitated a keynote by Dr. Behrang Foroughi, a communal conversation with Dr. Foroughi and Dr. Jo Tyler, and over 15 conference sessions. We facilitated a Connections Corner event featuring Dr. Lucy Guglielmino and her study of Sarah and Angelina Grimke, local advocates and abolitionists in Charleston, SC in the 19th Century. We joined two SIGS (sustainability, and minority and human rights) for a meeting to plan ways to share work this year with social justice issues.

This year CCMNFE will focus on bringing to light the practices of the many local community adult educators across the country. We will share stories of their work and the results in their communities and workplaces. We will be working further in partnership with the sustainability and minority and human rights SIGs with social justice issues.

We are establishing a listserv for AAACE members who are interested in following and contributing to this work. We will put out a call via email so that you can register to participate on the listserv. We are also seeking members who wish to serve as leaders in our efforts. We plan to provide an AAACE webinar about community-based adult education this year.

Commission for International Adult Education (CIAE)

Thanks to all who contributed to the success of the 2014 International Pre Conference with fifty participants and twenty-four papers presented (and distributed in Proceedings) during the 3-day gathering. Watch for the abstracts posted to the AAACE website soon.

This year communications during the fall with Alan Tuckett, President of the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE), of which AAACE is a member, led to an informative and productive information campaign at the entire week-long AAACE conference to raise awareness regarding the forthcoming ICAE World Assembly, scheduled for 11-14 June 2015 in Montreal Canada, on the campus of the Université de Montréal. See www.waam2015.org for more details. Also watch for the link on our AAACE website regarding updates and information about submitting proposals. The World Assembly is organized in collaboration with the Institut de Coopération pour L'éducation des Adultes, the local host. Accordingly, we invited its director, Roland Cameron, to be our special guest at the opening of the International Pre Conference. He met and greeted all and shared an informative presentation both about ICAE as well as the World Assembly. He also stayed with us for the Pre Conference intermingling, addressing questions, and dialoguing. We were most appreciative of the time and energy taken from his busy schedule to be with us and to Alan Tuckett for writing a personal letter to all AAACE participants, which was distributed and available with other ICAE World Assembly material. Another direct communication from Secretary-General of ICAE Katarina Popovic informed us that André Schläfli, ICAE Executive Committee member, would be at the AAACE main conference all week. So, we invited him to our AAACE Board meeting to further discuss the importance of USA involvement in the World Assembly.

In addition to the Pre Conference, Dr. Mejai Avoseh (just returned from his year-long Fulbright in Botswana) chaired the review of internationally oriented papers for the AAACE main conference and Dr. Emmanuel Jean Francois, just recently moved from the University of Wisconsin to Ohio State, continues to spearhead (along with Mejai) our Commission newsletter. Feel free to send us any newsworthy international or global items. Both individuals continue to form a solid part of the foundation of the Commission. This year Avoseh and his graduate assistant Matt Hoyer played a meaningful role in formatting and producing the Pre Conference Proceedings. In addition, Dr. Qi Sun of the University of Wyoming was appointed International Outreach Director for the CIAE, which in turn provides a service to AAACE in reaching out to collaborate with Associations and groups in other countries. During October we hosted a Chinese delegation at Virginia Tech's Graduate Center outside of Washington D.C. and we brought Qi in via Skype. Past Presidents Drs. Linda Morris and Clare Klunk also participated. During the 2014 AAACE Conference, Mario Giampaolo from Italy coordinated an introductory Skype meeting between the CIAE Director (Marcie Boucouvalas) and The European Association for the Education of Adults, interested in collaborative endeavors with us. A follow-up meeting is planned for January 2015. Other initiatives are in the making. Stay tuned.

Commission for Program Management (CPM)

The results of the CPM member interest survey have been disseminated among all members. If you did not receive an email, please contact Steve McCaskey (steve.mccaskey@indstate.edu) and he will be happy to forward you the results. Additionally, if any current CPM member - or anyone interested in becoming a CPM member - has interest in working on the website or working with other CPM members on a committee to keep CPM moving forward, please contact me at the email address provided. Once CPM has the shell of the website created, Steve will begin incorporating information onto the website based on the feedback from the survey.

Information on CPM website at AAACE.com ranked 1 to 7.

1. Links to resources	92%
2. List of CPM benefits	83%
3. Update on CPM activities	75%
4. Listing of members w/contact information	67%
5. CPM goals and objectives	67%
6. Options for connecting with CPM	58%
7. Mission/Vision	50%

Additionally, based on the feedback from the survey, Steve will be working on the following benefits to CPM members:

Top five benefits from CPM – maximum value of 100.

1. Having a list of contact information from CPM colleagues	82.00
2. Meeting people with similar interests	81.80
3. Having a network of colleagues to call on	81.73
4. Share best practices and research	77.50
5. Informational resources	76.00

News from Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Christy M. Rhodes, AAACE Director At-Large

Before we head into 2015, I'd like to take a look back at Charleston and highlight the role of the AAACE special interest groups (SIGs) and their incredible leadership. Their work began in the summer, with SIG chairs leading proposal review committees and working with the conference team to put together an interesting and relevant conference program. This resulted in the SIGs being represented by over 60 concurrent, 33 roundtable, and 6 poster sessions. A special shout-out goes to the Colleges and Universities SIG, whose members contributed almost 30 sessions to the conference.

Featured Sessions

There were also two featured concurrent sessions offered through the AAACE SIGs. The SEA (Sustainability and Environmental Adult Education) SIG presented Reclaiming the cultural commons: Local knowledge and global sustainability, led by facilitators, Audrey Dentith and Wendy Griswold (SEA SIG Chair). The cultural commons is a prevalent theme in the sustainability movement and are practices that exist in every community and represent the culturally diverse legacies that are less dependent upon a money economy and consumerism. These cultural commons reflect more sound ecological practices and sustainable goals for all. The centerpiece of the SEA SIG session was a video, The Way Forward: Revitalizing the Cultural Commons in Ecojustice, that features graduate students who explored the cultural commons as part of their course work in education. Please take the opportunity to learn more about the cultural commons by viewing the video at http://youtu.be/8PvKnXY7r_E.

The Military SIG offered both a general and featured concurrent session that included the esteemed panel of: Drs. Jane Fishback, Maria Clark, Kevin Shea, and Lieutenant Colonel Paul Berg. Each member shared expertise based on research with combat veterans of how combat stress impacts learning. The timeliness and importance of these sessions cannot be overemphasized, as growing numbers of combat veterans enter post-secondary and higher education classrooms. As noted by the panel, these soldiers live with stress and the memories that created that stress. Upon entering the academic world, these memories enter with them. Following the featured concurrent session, the panel led a thought-provoking discussion of the implications of this issue on adult and higher education, as well as the role our field can play in assuring the academic success of these adult learners.

Networking

The AAACE conference always provides multiple opportunities to make new friends and meet up with long-time friends, and Charleston was no different. The Graduate Student SIG held their annual breakfast meeting on Thursday morning and SIG business meetings were held on Wednesday evening. Please feel free to contact your SIG chairs if you weren't able to connect during the conference. On behalf of Shelly, Jonathon, and Margaret, I'd like to thank all of you who attended the association leadership sessions. It was great to see so many new faces interested in playing a role in the continued development of AAACE and its many facets.

There are still SIGs with open leadership positions, and we would love to hear from you.

New Year's Resolutions

Finally, as we look to next year, what are our plans, or resolutions, for continuing to improve your experience with the AAACE SIGs? Next year will bring more communication from your SIGs, so take the time now to check your AAACE profile and see which groups you're already signed up for. We will be working with SIG leaders to provide updated membership lists, but feel free to contact me (rhodesc14@ecu.edu) or the SIG chairs directly with any questions or concerns. Simply use the AAACE website to access profiles and find the links to SIG leaders.

Happy new year to all SIG leaders and members!

News Briefs

AAACE Seeks a Name for Its New Webinar Initiative: Win a Free Membership and Mug!

The AAACE board recently formed a subcommittee to create operational procedures and support mechanisms for implementation of an association-wide educational webinar initiative. All current AAACE members are invited to help name this fledgling educational webinar program. Each member is limited to one proposed concept name. Proposed names must consist of no more than seven words. Names that form acronyms are acceptable, though not required. A winning name will be selected by the webinar subcommittee based on factors such as: impact as related to the AAACE's mission; creativity; and marketing potential; among other considerations. The winner will receive a complementary one-year AAACE individual membership, and an association mug!

To submit a concept name, send your idea via email to: dlt@aaace.org with "AAACE WEBINAR CONCEPT NAME" in the subject line. Include your own name, position, affiliation, and phone number within the body of your email. The deadline for submission of a concept name is January 9, 2015. A winner will be announced by February 2015. The webinar committee members are J. Bernard Bradley, subcommittee chair, Fred Prasuhn, technical facilitator, Nancy Fire, and Steve McCaskey.

Once final procedures are approved by early 2015, AAACE leaders including commission directors, special interest group (SIG) chairs, and board officers may sponsor live educational webinars on a variety of topics relating to the broad field of adult education. Toward this end, the AAACE board has recently subscribed to the Go-to-Webinar platform, which accommodates both electronic registration and webinar hosting functionalities. Technical assistance will be provided to approved webinar sponsors for quality assurance purposes and to ensure consistency across presentations. Select recorded webinars will be archived for viewing on demand by members. The association's first webinar of 2015, as supported by the Commission for Workforce and Professional Development (CWPD), will focus on Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). More specific information will be posted once finalized.

Adult Education Research Grants

The Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) at Syracuse University Library invites applicants to its Alexander N. Charters Adult Education Research Grants-in-Aid Program, not in its seventh year. Up to \$4,000 of grants-in-aid will be awarded in 2014 to researchers, scholars, and practitioners. The actual amount of each award will depend upon the scope of the research outlined in the applicant's proposal. Winners will be encouraged to submit copies of any scholarly output resulting from their work, for inclusion in SURface, Syracuse University's institutional repository.

The Charters Library of Resources for Educators of Adults is the world's most comprehensive collection of English-language materials in the field of adult and continuing education. The collection includes more than 90 manuscript collections, 2,100 books, 50 professional journals, 220 newsletters, 400 sound recordings, 100 video recordings, 10,000 photographs, and 2,800 master's theses and dissertations. Also included are the papers of individuals such as William Langner, Beverly Cassara, and its namesake, Alexander Charters, as well as the records of such pivotal organizations as Laubach Literacy International, the National University Continuing Education Association, and the Adult Education Association/American Association for Adult and Continuing Education. More information is available on the SCRC website.

The Special Collections Research Center at Syracuse University Libraries, home of the Charters Library, has more than 150,000 printed works and over 2,000 manuscript and archival collections. Its holdings are particularly strong in the 20th century, and include the personal papers and manuscripts of such luminaries as artist Grace Hartigan, inspirational preacher Norman Vincent Peale, author Joyce Carol Oates, photojournalist Margaret Bourke White, and industrial designer Walter Dorwin Teague, as well as the records of organizations such as avant-garde publisher Grove Press. A full list of all SCRC collections is available from our website at <http://scrc.syr.edu>.

The application deadline is January 15, 2015; winners will be announced by March 1, 2015. Grant funds must be used between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. For information on how to apply, visit the Charters Grants-in-Aid Program website at <http://library.syr.edu/digital/guides/a/AlexanderNCharters/grants.htm>.

In Memoriam

Dr. Jeffrey A. Ritchey, 1963-2014

Jeffrey A. Ritchey, age 51, Associate Professor of Adult and Community Education, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, passed away on November 24, 2014 after losing his battle with cancer. Jeff was a native of western Pennsylvania and lived with his wife, Beth, and son, Eli, in Hollidaysburg, PA. His family was always the center of Jeff's life. He frequently talked about his wife, Beth, and son Eli, who was adopted from the Philippines. In addition to his family and professional life, Jeff was an active member of the First United Methodist Church in Hollidaysburg.

Jeff earned his doctorate in adult education from Penn State in 2000. Prior to joining the faculty at IUP, Jeff served in a number of positions. He was the Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries at his church. At the same time he also taught online through the Penn State World Campus in the Adult Education graduate program. Prior to that, he worked for the Office of Graduate Fellowships & Awards at Penn State.

While at IUP, Jeff was the Program Coordinator for the Master of Arts in Adult Education and Communications Technology (a master's programs shared between the Departments of Adult and Community Education and Communications Media). Jeff received the Faculty Recognition Award (2011) and the Outstanding Research Award (2014) from the College of Education and Educational Technology, Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Jeff was the co-editor of the PAACE Journal of Lifelong Learning and for the Research Digest Column in the COABE Journal of Research and Practice for Adult Literacy, Secondary, and Basic Education. In addition, he served as a manuscript reviewer for many other publications including the Journal of the Asian Society for International Relations and Public Affairs, International Journal of Business Applications, Journal of Religion and Popular Culture, Adult Education Quarterly, and the Journal of Communications Media.

Jeff's scholarly interests were many and varied. He conducted research in areas such as atheist communities, intentional living communities, rural adult education, corrections education, and asset mapping. His latest series of investigations took him to Indonesia where he and a colleague investigated the use of media by Islamic leaders to bring about social change in their communities.

Throughout all of these interests, Jeff considered himself a rural sociologist at heart, and the role of adult education in rural communities was the constant thread running through his work. In addition to editing a New Directions for Adult and Continuing Education (#117) he published in journals such as Journal of Religion and Popular Culture, International Communication Gazette, International Journal of Business Applications, and Convergence.

Despite all of his professional accomplishments, Jeff was the consummate teacher and mentor. This is so because teaching was not something he did, it was who he was. He treated students with dignity and respect and had faith they would give their best in response. A few comments from students and colleagues will tell the story.

"I honestly looked forward to coming to classes throughout the program and learning all that Jeff had to share. His professionalism, integrity, and sincere desire to help made him such a good instructor and member of the community.

"He helped to teach me not only how to critically think about my career and role with students, but maybe most importantly helped to teach me a lot about myself."

"I so much appreciated the many conversations that we had and . . . [he] will always play an important role in any successes that I have throughout my career."

"He is an amazing teacher and mentor. Together, we learned so much on our differences and we managed to write research projects based on our endless coffee chat."

"Jeff was a really dear professor, father, and friend. I knew him since last year, but I'm feeling that he has been one of my family members. He has helped my family and me a lot. It was my first time to see such a wonderful, sensitive, passionate, and honest person. I have learnt from him how a human being should act, and I bet anyone who knew him, will not say differently."

"Dr. Ritchey was the best teacher I have ever had."

Jeff's sudden passing has left all of us in shock. As the shock wears away, we realize what a positive role he played in creating a caring learning community among the faculty, staff, and students in the Department of Adult and Community Education at IUP. Because of his integrity, and love for and faith in people, he was the example that provided inspiration for all of us and was what we all aspired to become.