

Five Minutes with ACHE

What's Inside

A Message from the President What is the value of the Annual Conference and Meeting?	1	News from the Regions Regional Conference Information and Updates	8
News From the Home Office The ACHE Member Community Membership dues for 2009 Looking for <i>Five Minutes</i> submissions	2	The Learning Corner Professional Educator Profile: Marthann Schulte, Ph.D. – Royce Young Review of Hart, Hickerson book: <i>Prior Learning Portfolios: A Representative Collection</i>	9
News from the Association Call for Research Grant applications Time to vote!: Board of Directors and Vice President Annual Conference and Meeting News JCHE ***now on-line!*** Call for manuscripts	3	News from the Wide World of Continuing Education	10

A Message from President Osborn



What is the value of the Annual Conference and Meeting?

One of the more pleasant responsibilities of the ACHE president is to visit each of the organization's regional conferences. During the business meeting at one of these conferences, the vice chair of the region asked the attendees whether they should consider cancelling their 2010 regional meeting. After all, the economy was weak, budgets were tight, and travel was difficult. After a brief silence, one fellow spoke up. "You know," he said, "if we cancel our meeting ourselves, then what we're saying to the decision makers is that *it wasn't very important to begin with.*"

I've cleaned up his language a bit – if I remember correctly, he had a more colorful term for the decision makers – and I know the decision is not quite that simple. But his comments stick in my mind and have shaped my thinking. This issue hits home because our state continuing education organization decided to cancel its fall conference for the first time in its history. While I didn't disagree with that decision at the time, I now think it was a mistake. *Our continuing education meetings are not trivial.* All of this is a somewhat convoluted introduction to this month's topic—the benefits of attending the ACHE Annual Conference and Meeting.

The Annual Conference and Meeting is important to the organization. The first task listed under the responsibilities of the ACHE President is to *"ensure an Annual Conference and Meeting of the highest quality."* The Annual Conference and Meeting is ACHE's *signature activity and its success is the President's responsibility.* (I'm glad there's no pressure.) A successful conference blends CONTENT, LOCATION, and COST. It requires a lineup of knowledgeable speakers and concurrent sessions, an attractive location, and a reasonable price that can garner institutional support. This is all intuitive to meeting planners as well as what our members report. As far as *why* ACHE members attend the Annual Conference and Meeting, overwhelmingly, they identify the opportunity to network as the primary benefit of attendance. But what does networking mean, and what other benefits can we identify from conference attendance? Here is my reasoning, which can be useful for folks who have to fight to attend the Annual Conference and Meeting.

It seems to me that a successful conference must have benefits for (1) the organization sending the attendee and (2) the professional continuing educator attending the conference. I am calling these Organizational Benefits and Professional Benefits, realizing, of course, that there is some overlap.

- **ORGANIZATIONAL BENEFITS.** There are benefits that accrue primarily to the college or university. Organizations cannot succeed by isolating themselves, living in a vacuum, unaware of what the competition is doing. An ACHE-member organization wants its continuing educators to know current trends, new programming initiatives, best-practices in the field, model programs, and programs that make money as well as those that are unsuccessful. They want to know how their continuing education operation compares to others, both domestic and international. This learning takes place in formal settings—the concurrent sessions where peers share knowledge—and informally during breaks, receptions, and meals. The Annual Conference and Meeting is the perfect opportunity for this benchmarking to take place. Each year, while concurrent session topics change, conference attendees are *always* exposed to award-winning programs and successful marketing campaigns. The conference is a sea of ideas, an ocean of opportunities. It's not uncommon to hear an ACHE member say they always take one or two good ideas from the conference back to their institution for implementation. This is networking, but it is also more. It is also what I like to call *netlearning*. And it's certainly worth the cost and effort of attendance. Additionally, there is no better opportunity for a new continuing educator to learn about the field than in the conference setting. At a recent ACHE Great Plains regional, I witnessed a veteran continuing educator spend over an hour mentoring someone from another university who had just been appointed to a continuing education position. It was a conversation that developed from the simple question: "How do you do this at your institution?" In all my years in the field, I've never seen a continuing educator hesitate to answer that question.
- **PROFESSIONAL BENEFITS.** These are benefits that accrue primarily to the individual continuing educator, but they are no less valuable organizational benefits. The Annual Conference and Meeting is the best opportunity to learn the culture of the field, *to learn how to be a continuing educator*. Professional conduct and collegiality are modeled. There are formal and informal opportunities for mentoring. Attendees learn about job openings, the status of searches, and if a search has a favored internal candidate. Attendees form contacts that can help them find future jobs. For example, I've written several letters of reference for colleagues I first met at an ACHE conference and have gotten to know throughout the years as we worked together on planning committees or other work of the association. I've called ACHE colleagues for recommendations when I've conducted my own searches.

Finally, and maybe most importantly, there is the sense of community found in ACHE. We're comfortable around each other and it's the one audience where we don't have to explain what we do. We can say "non-credit" or "off-campus" and be immediately understood. During difficult times, when we can escape the pressures of enrollment levels, funding formulas, and cost/benefit ratios, this might be the most important benefit of all.

News from the Home Office

The ACHE Member Community is growing!

Since the launch of the ACHE Member Community in February, we've made steady progress toward full implementation of all that the Community has to offer. In this month's edition of Five Minutes, we're excited to announce the following new features:

- On-line access to the *Journal of Continuing Higher Education* *** Volume 57, Issue 1 now available!***
- Update your profile and upload a photo so other Community users can get to know you
- A Bulletin Board where Community members can ask questions and share ideas
- Institutional Representatives: Update your member listing online!
- Professional and Provisional members: Renew your membership online today!

Coming soon:

- Registration for the 2009 ACHE Annual Meeting and Conference
- Membership renewal for Institutional and Affiliate members
- Have a blog? A MySpace or LinkedIn profile? Maybe you know of a website that you've found useful and you want to share it with the Community. We'll be adding additional profile fields, including a place to list your favorites.

Membership dues for 2009

The membership dues renewal cycle for 2009 is finally closed. We want to thank all of you who have chosen to stay with ACHE and make this association a strong, viable resource for adult continuing educators looking for support as they navigate the waters of this often challenging profession.

We at the home office got to talk to many of you as we went about the task of getting everyone's dues paid and information updated. So please visit the Community and check your information to make sure it's up to date! You can log in via our homepage at www.acheinc.org.

Looking for *Five Minutes* submissions

We're looking for submissions for the *Five Minutes* Learning Corner. Please send us articles on these or other topics of interest to continuing educators:

- Experiences in marketing a continuing education program
- The past and present of Historically Black Colleges and Universities
- A profile of a unique continuing education program at your institution
- Experiences as a professor in adult continuing education
- Article or book reviews
- Anything else you can think of that might be of interest to the ACHE membership!

News from the Association

Call for ACHE Research Grant applications

Deadline for submission: September 30, 2009

The purpose of the ACHE Research Grant is to promote the development and dissemination of new knowledge, theories, and practices in adult and continuing education. Grants of up to \$3,000 may be awarded.

ACHE members or doctoral students with sponsorship from ACHE are eligible to submit research grant proposals. Members of the Research Committee, national officers and Board members are not eligible to apply for a grant. The Research Committee urges ACHE members to assist the Committee in contacting current doctoral students and their submission of a grant application.

ACHE Research Grant proposals will be evaluated using criteria found on the following ACHE web page link:

http://www.acheinc.org/grants_scholarships/research_grant.html

For further information and questions, please contact Dr. Thomas Fuhr, Acting Research Committee Chair at fuhrtw@potsdam.edu or by phone 315-267-3089.

Almost time to vote! – Board of Directors and Vice President – Voting will take place June 1-15!

The slate of candidates for the ACHE Board of Directors and Vice President has been finalized.

Standing for Director-at-Large:

- Jeffery Alejandro
- Pam Collins
- Paula Hogard
- Jane LeClair

Standing for Vice President:

- David Grebel

Voting will take place June 1-15, 2009. Log into the ACHE Member Community and follow the links from there!

Get to know our candidates!

Jeffery Alejandro



Title: Coordinator
Institution: East Carolina University
Region: Mid-Atlantic
Candidate For: Director-At-Large

Profile: My goals for the association include growing its membership and increasing its visibility within the field. ACHE has been my family of professionals. Some of the long-time members have been my best mentors, and some of the other new professionals have been the brothers and sisters I am growing and learning with within the association. When I needed advice or wanted to vent, I have been able to turn to my colleagues within ACHE. This extended family has been wonderful. I have formed lifelong bonds with many of its members. As with any family, ACHE must grow and bring in new members. As the chair of the Inclusiveness Committee, it has been my vision to bring in members from underserved groups, such as graduate students, young professionals, minorities, community colleges, and untapped adult education agencies. ACHE is a great organization filled with practitioners from all areas of adult and continuing education. It has a long history of service and leadership to the profession. I feel that due to recent events in our nation and higher education, ACHE can poise itself to better educate and serve higher education professionals. Now is the time to become the continuing higher education association of choice. Membership in ACHE has done a lot for me as a professional and as a person, such as making me a better educator, administrator, leader, and student advocate. I would like the opportunity to continue serving ACHE and its members.

Service to ACHE National:

- Committee on Inclusiveness Chair 2008, 2009
- Minority Affairs Network Chair 2007
- Program Committee 2007, 2008, 2009
- Program Committee Co-Chair 2011 (announced 4/2/09)
- Nominations Committee 2008
- Member since 2001

Service to ACHE Mid-Atlantic Region

- Chair 2008-2009
- Past Chair 2009-2010
- Program Committee 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009
- Webmaster 2005-2008

Pam Collins



Title: Director, Office of Academic and Professional Development
Institution: Eastern Illinois University
Region: Great Lakes
Candidate For: Director at Large

Profile: Pam Collins began her career in continuing education at Eastern Illinois University in 1994 and has received a variety of position promotions. Initially, she served as the director of non-credit programs, and shortly thereafter became the director of off-campus and contract credit programs. Pam now serves as the director of the Office of Academic and Professional Development for the School of Continuing Education and is responsible for all off-campus credit and non-credit programs, including study abroad and distance learning activities. In 1996, Pam attended her first ACHE Annual Meeting; she has been a very active member and supports the goals of ACHE. In addition to attending annual and regional meetings, Pam is currently serving as the chair of the Great Lakes Region and is a member of the research committee. She has also served as the chair of the Crystal Marketing Awards committee and as a representative on the national program planning committee on several occasions since 1999. ACHE provides such invaluable resources for the continuing education practitioner who greatly benefits by participating in the many offerings of this organization. Benefits include opportunities for sharing ideas, networking, professional development, and being rewarded for their successes and hard work as continuing educators. The association also provides a place where continuing educators can share their challenges and successes in an ever-changing and demanding society. Pam's goal is to promote ACHE as a place where we can learn and grow together and where we can face the challenges of today as a unified group; and in following

ACHE's mission, represent continuing education and the continuing education professional to local, state and national constituencies.

Paula Hogard



Title: Dean of Lifelong Learning

Institution: University of Tulsa

Region: Great Plains

Candidate For: Director-at-Large

Profile: I arrived in the United States in September of 2009 and became a member of ACHE in 2000. ACHE very quickly became an important professional resource. Just as quickly, members of the association became friends and colleagues willing to go out of their way to make someone from "across the pond" welcome. I am honored to ask for your support to serve as Director-at-Large. I have more than 16 years experience of working in continuing higher education. Since joining ACHE,

I have served at the regional level as Secretary, Chair-Elect, and Chair. I have presented at both regional and national conferences. At the national level, I have served as the Network Leader for Professional Development and chaired the awards committee for the Wayne Whelan Scholarship. This year, I am serving as the Joint Chair for Exhibitor Relations for the 2009 Conference in Philadelphia. Over the past several years, the Great Plains Region has increased its membership. My goals for the Association include continuing to grow membership and to encourage more Community Colleges to become actively engaged in ACHE, both within the region and nationally. Another goal is to see increased opportunities for ACHE members to serve the Association in a leadership capacity. There are some terrific people in our Association doing some great things for ACHE. Personally, I do not believe that they should be excluded from leadership opportunities on the basis of not having had the opportunity to serve as a regional officer. When you attend our national and regional meetings and look around, you will notice an absence of younger continuing education professionals. In order to survive and continue to succeed we have to explore ways to address this. We know that Generation Y tend not to join organizations and so a further goal would be to look for new and innovative ways of encouraging new/younger professionals to join ACHE. ACHE has a long and successful history of being the voice of our profession by striving to increase access and opportunity to those who are underserved. These are challenging but exciting times for continuing higher education. We have a new President and an administration willing to discuss with other professionals how best to address the need for the United States to compete globally in the new knowledge economy. I would like to see ACHE have a place at the table as these discussions progress.

Jane LeClair



Title: Program Director, Technology Programs

Institution: Excelsior College

Region: Northeast

Candidate For: Director-at-Large

Profile: Jane LeClair has been an active member of ACHE for over ten years. Jane has held a number of positions in the organization including Vice Chair and Treasurer, and has been Chair of ACHE Northeast since 2007. ACHE Northeast has been a very active group under her leadership, with an expanding membership and sponsoring biannual workshops that draw an impressive number of attendees. Among the workshops offered by the group were:

- Professional Development for Presenters
- Transitioning Students with Disabilities to College
- Serving Today's Non-Traditional Students
- Building Corporate and Community Partnerships
- Administration, Technology and Unlocking the Barriers to Successful Distance Learning

The Northeast treasury has grown 1000% as a result of these workshops during her tenure as Chair. Jane has also made presentations at ACHE conferences in:

- Roanoke, Virginia (2007)
 - Transitioning Students with Learning Disabilities to Post Secondary Education
 - Adult Education Graduate Programs- Where Art Thou.
- Nashville, Tennessee (2008)
 - Responding to the Changing Characteristics of Adult Learners in Today's Continuing Education Environment
- Hyannis, Massachusetts (2008)
 - Tomorrow's Leader's in Continuing Education

- o No Adult Left Behind Using Community Resources to Assist ALL Adults with Special Needs

Jane feels that ACHE, like all successful organizations, has been built on a firm foundation of dedicated leadership and involved members eager to share their knowledge. Her vision for ACHE is to grow the organization through diversity efforts, networking, publicity and a continuation of the efforts that have led ACHE to its current well deserved status in the realm of higher education. Since receiving her Doctorate in Adult Education from Syracuse University, Jane has been on the faculty and staff of numerous colleges and currently teaches in the Masters in Adult Education Program at Elmira College. She is currently the Program Director for Technology Programs at Excelsior College. Jane is also lending her expertise to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as President of "ALC Consulting."

David Grebel



Title: Director of Extended Education
Institution: Texas Christian University
Region: South

Candidate For: Vice President

Profile: Bob Dylan was right: "The Times They Are A-Changin'." "Changin'" times bring great opportunity. For ACHE, the opportunity is to focus on our meaning to higher education and the public we serve. To bring greater meaning, it is my desire to identify and offer significant services to our members, build on our current relationships by inviting our colleagues in the field to partner with us, and continue to strengthen ACHE's voice in shaping the national narrative for continuing higher education. With our open and participatory approach to leadership, we can continue to create opportunities for our members to develop their professional potential and to contribute to the relationships that magnify our impact. As we share our stories with each other, we will build our learning communities and begin to better understand our role in a greater context. As we become more inclusive, we will reflect the communities that we serve. Our work as good stewards of our resources we will afford greater opportunities to respond to the changing times. Meaning matters. My twelve years with ACHE have taught me that our work has meaning for ourselves, our universities and the public. We are the collaborators, the investors in human capital, the front line engaging our universities with the public. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve ACHE in the following ways:

- Member, Board of Directors, 2007 to present
- Program Chair, 2007 Annual Meeting in Roanoke, Virginia
- Member, ACHE Program Committee
 - o 2006 Annual Meeting in Los Angeles
 - o 2009 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia
 - o 2010 Annual Meeting in Albuquerque
- ACHE South (formerly Region 7)
 - o Chair, Awards Committee - 1999
 - o Executive committee, 2003-2004
 - o Secretary, 2003-2004
 - o Chair-elect, 2004-2005
 - o Chair, Program Committee - 2005
 - o Chair, 2005-2006
 - o Past Chair, 2006-2007
 - o Chair, Local Arrangements Committee - 2006
- Presenter at several ACHE annual and regional meetings

Charles Hickox



Title: Dean, Continuing Education & Outreach
Institution: Eastern Kentucky University
Region: South

Candidate For: Vice President

Profile: I have been a member of the Association since 2000, and have been continuously active in that time in two regions and on the national level serving on committees, in networks, and as a national board member throughout my membership. I have served as moderator, presider, day chair, convener, and presenter at numerous ACHE regional and international conferences.

Involvement in ACHE:

- ACHE Board, Member at Large, 2006 to present
- Board Liaison, Resolutions Committee, 2006 to present
- Call for Proposals Selection Team Member

- Board Committee, Strategic Planning Revision, 2008
- Day Chair, International Conferences, 2005, 2006
- Convener, Professional Development Network, 2002--2006
- Member, Membership Development and Services Committee
- ACHE Regional Secretary, Region 8 (now Great Plains)
- Vice-Chair, Region 8 (now Great Plains)
- Chair, Region 8 (now Great Plains)
- Program Committee Chair, annual Regional Conference

Other:

- COLLO Delegate, Kentucky Association for Continuing Higher Education

Statement of goals:

As an active member of ACHE, I am encouraged by our corporate strengths. The phenomenal networking that takes place at our regional and international conferences characterizes the value that we clearly place--as individuals and as an organization--in our professional relationships. I continue to be impressed by the quality and relevance of conference programming that occurs regionally and nationally; the expertise exhibited by our members as they present at these events and the relevance of the topics chosen obviously demonstrate that we practice what we preach. Finally, I have the greatest respect for the quality of leadership and the dedication to ACHE so clearly demonstrated by my colleagues on the Board of Directors, our Executive Officers, and the home office staff. I believe that the principal issues that we face as an organization arise from the need to maintain and enhance the Association's relevancy to the membership and from the necessity to serve as an advocate for our profession in the academic community. To remain a viable organization, ACHE must take the lead in helping each of us at our individual institutions adapt, adjust, and succeed in a rapidly evolving, continuously challenging workplace environment. To accomplish this, I suggest several measures: 1. Increase our advocacy role at the local, state, and national level. We, as an association, must become more aware of legislation and regulatory practices that impact our profession, and we must be more active in influencing that legislation and practice. 2. Advance the interests of ACHE through the proactive development of partnerships with related associations, organizations, and institutions to develop policies and programs beneficial to our common interests. 3. Promote best practices in our profession by fostering research into relevant topics of professional interest and ensuring the dissemination of information discovered in that research to the membership in a timely manner. 4. Apply the most effective, cost-efficient means of communications technology in our professional development activities and information sharing among the membership.

Annual Conference and Meeting News

Philadelphia 2009 ~ Philadelphia, Penn., November 15-18, 2009

We are still taking submissions through June 1 for the Crystal Marketing Award!

Please visit the ACHE Awards page for more information on these awards and how to submit the outstanding work someone you know is doing:

<http://www.acheinc.org/awards/awards.html#>



Journal for Continuing Higher Education

JCHE now online!

Volume 57, Issue 1 of the *Journal of Continuing Higher Education* was recently published by our new publishing house, Routledge (part of the Taylor & Francis Group). As part of the exciting new opportunities provided by our new agreement, **you can now access the *Journal* online via the ACHE Member Community.** Go to www.acheinc.org and log in with your username and password. Once you're logged on, the link for *Journal* is on the left hand menu.

Call for Manuscripts is now open

The *Journal of Continuing Higher Education* is currently accepting manuscripts for the August-December, 2009 issue and beyond and encourages ACHE members to write for publication. For best consideration for the August-December issue, manuscripts are requested by **June 15**.

The *Journal* considers two types of articles:

- Major articles—current research, theoretical models, conceptual treatments—of up to 7,000 words on:
 - organization and administration of continuing higher education
 - development and application of new continuing education program thrusts
 - adult and nontraditional students
 - continuing education student programs and services
 - research within continuing higher education and related fields

Manuscripts should have both theoretical and practical implications.

- “Best Practices” articles of up to 4,000 words. These “Best Practice” articles contain descriptions of new, innovative, and successful programs or practices. The programs or practices should be replicable and of significance to continuing education.

Manuscript submission guidelines are available online at http://www.acheinc.org/guidelines/JCHE_guide.pdf. Potential authors should feel free to consult with JCHE editor Barbara Hanniford. She can be reached at b.hanniford@csuohio.edu or (216) 687-2149.

Please share this announcement with colleagues and graduate students who may be interested in submitting manuscripts to *JCHE*. The *Journal* has published outstanding graduate student work in the past.

News from the Regions

Mid-Atlantic

ACHE Mid Atlantic 2009 Spring Conference March 29 - March 31, 2009

The Woods Resort and Conference Center
Mountain Lake Road, Hedgesville, WV

On March 29, 2009 members of the ACHE Mid-Atlantic Region convened in Hedgesville, WV for a few days of work, networking and fun. The participants had an opportunity to “get away from it all” and enjoy the quiet and scenic landscape of the The Woods Resort and Conference Center. The conference kicked off with a dinner and coffee house entertainment provided by an icon of the region, Jerry Hickerson. The following two days included great food, educational workshops and reuniting with great friends. If you were unable to attend this year, be sure to make plans to attend next year. The Mid-Atlantic Region always finds a way to be productive and have a great time at the annual conference and meeting. See you in 2010!

Visit the ACHE Mid-Atlantic website at <http://www.acheinc.org/region/MidAtlantic/index.html> for more information about our conference, including business meeting minutes, a link to our photo album, and conference presentations.

Northeast

ACHE Northeast 2009 Spring Conference Administration, Technology, and Unlocking the Barriers to Successful Distance Learning

Friday, April 24, 2009

9 am - 2 pm

Onondaga Community College in Syracuse, NY

ACHE Northeast held its biannual conference entitled "Administration, Technology and Unlocking the Barriers to Successful Distance Learning" on Friday, April 24, 2009. The conference was co-sponsored by Onondaga Community College, who recently joined ACHE as an Institutional member. Presentations at the one-day conference focused on Administrative and Faculty viewpoints and approaches to distance learning. An afternoon panel, consisting of experienced administrators, faculty and online students provided their personal perception of online learning based on

their own experiences. Tom Fuhr, ACHE Director-at-large, discussed updates from the ACHE Board Meeting. The Conference drew approximately 50 attendees.

South

ACHE South 2009 Spring Conference

April 27-29, 2009

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

ACHE South and LACHE held their 2009 annual conference April 27-29, 2009 at the historic Hilton Capitol Center in downtown Baton Rouge. The theme for the conference was Building Bridges: Exploring the Past, Discovering the Future of Continuing Education.

Visit the ACHE South website at

<http://www.acheinc.org/region/South/index.html> for more information about our conference, including conference presentations.



The Learning Corner

Professional Educator Profile: Marthann Schulte, Ph.D.

– Royce Young

Marthann Schulte, Ph.D., is a professor at Park University in Parkville, Missouri. She handles mainly online courses and is active in ACHE as she is on the program committee for the Philadelphia conference. She recently visited with Royce Young, a member of the University of Oklahoma Outreach Marketing and Communications Department, about her career choices.

Park University is truly a multifaceted institution. ACHE members may be familiar with Park's campus centers and online offerings. People in the Kansas City area are familiar with Park due to its liberal arts program that is targeted to traditional daytime students. Many military members know Park for its degree completion opportunities online and face-to-face. Park has a little bit of something for everyone. I am a good example. I am a full-time faculty member in the School for Education and have my appointment in the Graduate Adult Education program. I also have half-time administrative release time to the College for Distance Learning at Park. My administrative work is in online instructor training, mentoring, observation and evaluation. I lead a team of six full time faculty who also have administrative release time to work with our online instructors. My work at Park is almost exclusively with online programs. I teach online, work with online instructors and courses, and my research and professional work is also predominantly with online learning topics. When I began my teaching career, it was as in traditional face-to-face learning modes. I taught history courses face-to-face. I really enjoyed those years of teaching. When working on my doctorate in education (curriculum and instruction), I sought a topic that was current and useful. Online learning had that type of currency and usefulness. My dissertation led me into online learning. ...and I have never looked back!

What is it like to not have a traditional classroom, but rather an online one? That is an interesting perspective. I have found that the type of classroom (face-to-face or online) is not really that important. I have taught in very nontraditional, face-to-face physical classrooms. So a classroom is what you need it to be. To be truthful, I do not miss a traditional face-to-face classroom. Online learning modes provide a lot of flexibility for students *and* instructors. I greatly enjoy online teaching and the rich relationships that can be formed in online learning communities. Online students have opportunities to be as open and communicative as face-to-face students. The types of communication are different from mode-to-mode and all are conducive to active, engaging, beneficial learning.

My decision to pursue my Ph.D. was not completely calculated, but there were driving forces that did push me in that direction. First, I am from an education family. My father was a career-long high school business teacher. My mother was a career-long elementary and middle school music teacher, so teaching has always been a part of my life. I think I always knew that I wanted to be a teacher, but not which particular discipline. In my freshman year of college I realized my love of history. I then combined this discipline with teaching when I received by baccalaureate degree in history education with certification to teach 5-12 history, social studies, political science etc. I was a December baccalaureate graduate and so I decided to begin taking masters level history classes in the spring semester and then seek a full time

high school teaching position for the next academic year. Well, I enjoyed my masters level courses so much that I chose to continue working on my masters degree full time! The good thing was that I had my master's degree in 18 months. The bad news was that high schools were no longer interested in me because I had an additional degree and would cost more money on their payment schedules!

There is the connection between Park University's military education community and my spouse being an Army officer. However, I began working in military education-continuing education before meeting my husband. In fact, it was my military education connections that led me to both my husband and to Park!

Prior to my position at Park University, I was working at Fort Hays State University, located in western Kansas. Fort Hays State has a large distance education program for its size and had begun to expand its programs for military members. While completing my doctorate I began working in the Fort Hays State distance education program and was directed to investigate military initiatives. I knew little about military education at the time and soon got a "crash course" about the GI Bill, tuition assistance, and the special needs of military members and their dependents. During this time, I attended various military education conferences. Park University was also present at these same military education conferences and I was rightfully intrigued by their military education programs *and* their emphasis in online learning modes. Also at a military education conference I met my husband who was an Army recruiting commander at the time. I tried to recruit him to take online courses at Fort Hays State. He tried to recruit me to enter the Army Reserves. Let's just say that we compromised and recruited each other for a very rewarding marriage! My work in military education has not been necessarily planned at any point. But there are benefits in being a military spouse as I work with military students at Park University. Knowing their special needs and circumstances expands my appreciation for all nontraditional adult learners

I really enjoy having a solid role in ACHE. People have been most welcoming to me and have strongly encouraged that I become involved as my skills allow. It's invigorating to work with my ACHE colleagues! Their ideas, experience, drive and compassion are unparalleled. I can thank (or curse) the ACHE president-elect for much of my work in the association! Roxanne Gonzales introduced me to ACHE by suggesting that I attend a Region 8 (Great Plains) conference several years ago. I had been active in other continuing education organizations, but had not yet been exposed to ACHE. I was immediately impressed with the mission of ACHE and the fact that ACHE addresses many facets of continuing education (marketing; credit and non-credit programs, innovative learning modes, etc). I also liked the fact that ACHE has both regional and national components. Many professional organizations have only national levels and it is difficult for a "newbie" to become excited about or involved in a new organization at a national level. ACHE has options at various levels and in various areas of continuing education. Also, ACHE is large enough to make a difference, but not so large that you feel like a number.

Review of Prior Learning Portfolios: A Representative Collection A book by Denise M. Hart and Jerry H. Hickerson

"CAEL's newest publication, *Prior Learning Portfolios: A Representative Collection*, is a comprehensive set of materials and information about the historical context for prior learning assessment (PLA) that will assist PLA administrators practitioners, adult learners, faculty engaged in the learning assessment process, institutions making the case for offering or continuing to support PLA programs, and governments supporting and encouraging such programs. It is just the professional resource that has been needed in adult higher education for many years. Assessment professionals will find this to be one of the most beneficial sources of information and tools they will put to use in multiple venues. The CD-ROM with sample portfolio information is the icing on the cake of tools for PLA practitioners!"

Jacqueline Johnson, Ph.D.
President, Jacqueline Johnson & Associates, LLC
Management and Higher Education Consulting

News from the Wide World of Continuing Education

Subscribe to the new International Journal of Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning

The International Journal of Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning (IJCELL) was launched by the Centre for Research in Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning, School of Professional and Continuing Education at the University of Hong Kong. First published in early November, 2008, the IJCELL is available in both English and Traditional Chinese versions twice a year in November and May.

The purposes underlying the publication of the IJCELL are:

- To strengthen institutional, local, regional and international research collaboration
- To establish an international platform for information sharing and academic exchanges on continuing education and lifelong learning
- To disseminate research findings on continuing education and lifelong learning through academic activities and publications

For subscription information, visit the Centre for Research in Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning website at <http://research.hkust.hku.hk/journal/ijcell/#>.

2nd Sloan-C Symposium on Emerging Technology Applications for Online Learning

Online Registration is now Available!

June 17-19, 2009

Hyatt Regency in San Francisco, California

Attend the conference face-to-face, or attend virtually. Symposium tracks highlight and demonstrate research, application and best practices of important emerging technological tools related to social networking, assessment, open educational resources, new media and support services.

Who Should Attend

This conference, which will provide the latest information on emerging technology applications for online learning, is geared to both experienced professionals and interested newcomers to online learning who hail from a variety of work sectors, including higher education, continuing education, business, government, health care, professional associations, and nonprofit organizations.

Online registration and additional information is available at <http://www.emergingonlinelearningtechnology.org>

NUTN 2009 – Annual Conference on Distance Education: Quality in Motion

June 21 - 23, 2009

Saratoga Hilton, in Saratoga Springs, NY

Look around---university layoffs, budget cuts, travel restrictions, faculty sabbaticals eliminated—is there any educational environment in the world that hasn't been impacted by the economic situation?

During times such as these, we depend on our trusted colleagues and respected visionaries to guide our thinking as we align our distance education programs to respond and contribute to those we serve.

We know you'll find this year's NUTN 2009: Quality in Motion, a thoughtful response: plenary speakers provide interpretation and inspiration for the challenges ahead in distance education, pre-conference workshops and conference sessions will generate interesting discussion and practical suggestions and finally—a network of colleagues who are transforming distance education at their own universities. You'll leave this conference armed with a network of colleagues and great ideas to put into action.

If you are wondering whether this should be the conference you choose this year, think about the following plenary speakers:

- Elliot Masie, CEO of The Masie Center and internationally recognized futurist, analyst, researcher and organizer on the critical topics of workforce learning, business collaboration and emerging technologies
- Robert Richards, Senior Director of the Higher Colleges of Technology, and President of Dubai Men's College a thought leader in the human and education issues arising from technology and change
- Frank Mayadas, Program Director, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation



President's Panel:

Dr. Alan Davis, President Empire State College

Dr. Wright Lassiter, Chancellor, Dallas County Community College District

Dr. Susan Aldridge, President University of Maryland University College

NUTN 2009, June 21-23, held in Saratoga Springs, NY is the perfect location for June: an incredible area of historical importance and charm, great walk-around town, several area colleges which add to the ambience and activity, home to famous race tracks and great restaurants, all located at the foot of the Adirondacks Mountains. Don't miss this!

<http://www.uensd.org/NUTN2009/>

10th National Outreach Scholarship Conference

**Pathways of Engagement:
Connecting Civic Purpose to
Learning and Research - Locally
and Globally**

September 28 - 30, 2009

**The University of Georgia Center
for Continuing Education
Conference Center & Hotel
on The University of Georgia Campus in Athens, Georgia**



Make plans now to attend!

Registration information is available at www.outreachscholarship.org

Who should attend?

- Faculty members interested in connecting their disciplinary expertise to the needs of communities through the scholarship of engagement, engaged research, or student service-learning projects.
- University leaders interested in discussing structural issues and incentives to expand and strengthen the engagement of their institutions with communities, locally and globally.
- Students who are connecting their learning to the needs of communities through service-learning projects.
- Community members who are working to increase university engagement.

Through participation in interactive sessions, networking opportunities, and keynote addresses by internationally recognized speakers, you will learn more about the current thinking on these questions:

- What is the future of outreach and engagement in higher education?
- How can engaged scholarship enhance a broad, integrated approach to teaching, research, and service?
- How do colleges and universities provide support and incentives for faculty members and students to connect their research and learning to the needs of communities, locally or globally?
- How do faculty members build strong relationships between communities and universities, locally or globally?
- How do faculty members practice the scholarship of engagement, and what is the impact of such work on the faculty member, on the faculty member's students, or on the communities served?
- How do students connect their learning to the needs of communities, and what is the impact of their service-learning projects on their academic learning, personal growth, and development of civic purpose?

Information about the 2009 conference is available on-line at http://www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/conferences/outreach_conference/index.phtml

Sponsored by the members institutions of the National Outreach Scholarship Partnership

- Michigan State University
- North Carolina State University
- The Ohio State University
- The Pennsylvania State University
- Purdue University
- The University of Alabama
- The University of Georgia

- The University of Kentucky
- The University of Wisconsin-Extension

For more information, contact the conference planner, Melanie Baer at 706-542-6638 or melanie.baer@georgiacenter.uga.edu.