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In case you hadn't heard, the Cardinals won the World Series. YEAH! (Kansas City, I feel your pain. I was a long time resident of KC and got to live through the Brett, Wilson, Saberhagen, Quisenberry glory years. No matter what Cardinal Nation says, the Royals won the 1985 World Series fair and square.)

I have to admit that I was a non-believer throughout this entire summer. The Cards were old, hurt, and had gotten rid of their best bench players. The fact that once in a while they would return to their old form did nothing to change my Spring Training decision that this team was on the skids from their recent years of gorgeous wins and unbelievable statistics. We even had a chance to buy post season game tickets but passed because that was just too much money to spend on this bunch of washed up, beaten up, losers of a 7 ½ game lead during the last week of the season.

Well.....never come to me for betting advice. The Cards never gave up. They beat San Diego in 4 games. That was a nice bonus...we got to see a little more baseball. On to the Mets, also known as pond scum in St. Louis. The New York press saw this series as a waste of time because the conclusion was forgone. That got the Midwest sensibilities riled a bit and our interest in this series was piqued. This one the Cards kept coming back and finding scrappy ways to win. I was so exhausted after winning in seven games that for a while I didn't care what happened in the World Series. But we had come all this way so we had to see it to the end. For this series few people outside of St. Louis and Detroit cared because there wasn't a "coast" team playing. That was fine by us because we knew where we'd been and what we'd done. Notice how I've joined the team now that they're winning? The Cards win in 5. Unbelievable! Just by chance we were down by the stadium as the Cards won the final game. There is no way to describe being in a crowd of thousands cheering and happy for the same reason.

Whether you're a sports fan or not the games, teams, and seasons do make great analogies. There's the situation that's been given up on. There're the people outside of your office who don't believe in what you do. There's the documentation that says this student isn't going to make it. But somehow good stuff happens. Feel free to use any of the above to encourage a student, your staff, or yourself. Like the wise baseball sage said...you win some, you lose some, and some are rained out, but you dress out for all of them. You just never know what will happen with the next pitch or swing of the bat.



Let's Celebrate!!!

What: MO/AHEAD will be 20 years old in 2007

How: Logo/Theme contest

Who: MOAHEAD Members & your students

Money: Yes! \$50 prize for the winner

Deadline: January 15, 2007

Send in your graphic design ideas for how to best symbolize MO/AHEAD, 20 years, Tall Oaks, etc. on t-shirts to be given out at Tall Oaks.

Send your ideas to me: jeudaley@stlcc.edu or ACCESS Office, SLCC, 3400 Pershall Road, St. Louis, MO 63135

Transition to Higher Education Workshop Opportunities Support Services for Students with Disabilities

Transition Training Workshop for Parents & Students

February 15, 2007

7:00pm - 8:30pm

Special School District Administration Building

Important information for High School Counselors, Special Education Teachers, Administrators, Parents, and Students about support services

*Reasonable Accommodations *Legal Requirements

*Preparation for College *Self-Advocacy *Resources

*Services in Community Colleges and Universities

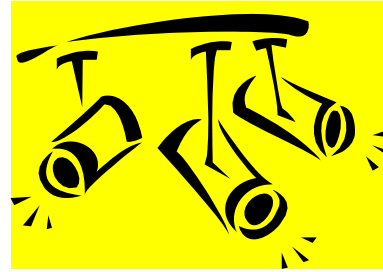
Trainings are sponsored by Missouri Association for Higher Education (MOAHEAD).

For more information contact:

Suelaine Matthews

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314.513.4549



JOSH BLUE WINS IT ALL

Last season's airing of NBC's *Last Comic Standing* made us all laugh while educating us about the disability of cerebral palsy. Josh Blue's humorous presentation of himself and his comfort with addressing the limits imposed by his CP led to his victory in this competition. Josh Blue IS *The Last Comic Standing*.

To view clips from Josh's comedy routines, go to www.youtube.com/watch. . Josh's website is www.joshblue.com Submitted by Candi Feller

SPOTLIGHT



ON MO-AHEAD

MEMBER

AND PAST BOARD

MEMBER



Ellen Kisker

Ellen Kisker

JOB TITLE: Director, Non-Traditional Student Center, ADA Coordinator, Ambassador Liaison

WORKPLACE: Missouri Western State University

Tell us about yourself: I taught high school business classes for five years, then worked at Kansas City Power & Light for three years, then began working at Missouri Western in 1986 as a half-time business instructor and half-time Women's Resource Center coordinator. In 1990 I became the full-time Non-Traditional Student Center director and have been here every since, for 20 years! I consider it a privilege to work with adult students, single parents, and students with disabilities! My special interests at work are helping single parents find resources to make it possible for them to attend college. I also love working with my advisees.

Tell us about your family: I am married to Dave Brown, Director of Counseling at Missouri Western. My daughters are both grown. Heather and her husband, Ricky, live in Kentwood, Michigan, where they are enrolled in an aviation missionary program. They want to be missionaries overseas. Holly is a senior at Northwest Mo State Univ. (yeah)!

Who inspires you? The folks who inspire me most are the students I meet every year that overcome enormous odds to be successful in college. I am especially in awe of those who manage multiple responsibilities, maintain an upbeat attitude, and are generous in spirit. Their energy is contagious!

What is your dream vacation? My dream vacation would be to travel to Europe with Dave and see the Alps.

Who are your heroes? My heroes are my parents, who are both deceased. They were farmers who worked extraordinarily hard and made my brothers and I feel completely secure and loved.

What are your hobbies? Outside of work, I love to play the piano and organ for my church. Dave and I go to the Chiefs games, Royals, and our sports activities here on campus. We wear sweatshirts and t-shirts a lot! FYI, we are also so-o-o-o ready for grandchildren!

Thank you for your years of service
to the MOAHEAD Board!!

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FRONT OF THE CLASS:

How Tourette Syndrome Made Me the Teacher I Never Had

Whoop! Ja,ja...JA! Brad Cohen tells his story of what it is like to live with Tourette Syndrome. Brad and his younger brother were reared in a divorced family and lived with their mother. As a young child, Brad was aware that his behavior was becoming more and more out of his control. He describes coughs, vocal yelps, twitching, and knee knocking which interrupted his concentration in and out of school and drew unwanted attention. Since no one had an explanation for his behaviors, the blame was put on his parents' divorce. Finally, when Brad was in fifth grade, he was diagnosed with Tourette's.

Brad describes a particularly negative period in his life, junior high school, when he was ridiculed and humiliated by his teachers and his peers. He was isolated, mocked, and taunted during school. The worst time for him was during the lunch period. He was put into in-school suspension when a kid on his school bus started a fight with him. He was forced by a teacher to stand in front of the class, apologize for making noises, and to promise he would stop. Of course, he couldn't stop.

It is difficult to understand how this author managed to maintain a positive attitude in spite of the abuse he had to endure. He credits his mother and grandmother, a male mentor, and a junior high school principal for providing him with early approval and acceptance. The principal invited Brad to speak about his Tourette's at a school assembly. This was the first time he had been able to express to others what the experience of TS is like and to educate the other students and teachers about the diagnosis. This was one turning point in his life and led to his decision to become a teacher. He continued to communicate about his disability to his classmates and teachers throughout high school, with mainly positive results.

Other positive events in his life helped Brad further develop his leadership abilities and led him to success in his chosen field, education. After being rejected for 24 different teaching positions, he became an elementary school teacher. He has won numerous awards for his teaching. He has been featured on Oprah and in People Magazine. He earned a Master's Degree and an Administrator Certification. He hopes to become a principal so his message of inclusion and acceptance for all will reach more children.

In spite of his personal success, Brad still can't go to public events without worrying about being asked to leave. He rarely goes to movies, and he has been ejected from many restaurants. He tries to educate others about Tourette's when he is asked to be quiet or to leave. When this doesn't work, he invokes the ADA. Brad does understand the point of view of someone who is put off or distracted by the noises he makes, so he would usually rather leave a confrontation than fight. Overall, he experiences support from most people.

Brad Cohen includes a section of "Resources" and "Thoughts on Living with Tourette Syndrome and Other Disabilities" in his book. I highly recommend this book to anyone who has Tourette Syndrome or any other disability. Brad's motivational message of self-confidence and perseverance is applicable to anyone who has faced adversity, which includes all of us! Brad's email address is www.frontoftheclassbook.com.

This remarkable native St. Louisan, author, teacher, and person with a disability (which seems mysterious to most of us) will be the speaker for St. Louis Community College, Meramec's annual Disability Awareness Day on April 29, 2007. Members of Missouri AHEAD and your students are invited to attend.

Submitted by Candi Feller

For more information, please contact me at cfeller@stlcc.edu.

**Do you have information you would like to share with us?
Please email your suggestion to Jennifer.Argo@mcckc.edu
Thank you!**

