



# Missouri AHEAD Newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

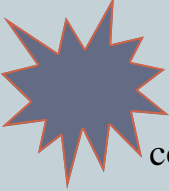
**Adam Meyer**  
**MO-AHEAD President**



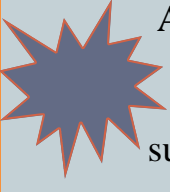
If your office has a large summer to-do list to complete in between meeting new students on campus for summer classes and during orientations in preparation for the Fall semester, you may cringe like I do when a new acquaintance or extended family member asks if the **slow** summers are enjoyed. I usually reply that it may be summer, but it sure ain't slow in the office. While the student traffic may be down for some of us in the summer, it is amazing to me how there is so much that still needs to be done in preparation for the next academic year. I do feel fortunate that we work in a setting where there are obvious cycles, as it allows us to see light at the end of the tunnel before entering another tunnel and occasionally wondering if it will ever end. Unfortunately, the time in between tunnels seems to get busier and busier. This is all the more reason to stop and reflect on past accomplishments and to rejuvenate in preparation for the next academic year. This is the first MO-AHEAD newsletter distributed in awhile. While the MO-AHEAD board recently decided that newsletters would only be sent when enough collective information existed to create such a letter (rather than creating a letter for the sake of doing), the MO-AHEAD executive board was busy during the past academic year.

Some of the work was seen via announcements on the listserv, such as with involvement of the Asperger's Conference in Fulton, MO in October and a follow-up Asperger's audio conference in February. A few MO-AHEAD members gathered with our KAN-AHEAD and neighboring state colleagues for the Tall Oaks conference in April. And now some new ideas and initiatives are in the works in an effort to increase the value one feels in being a member of the MO-AHEAD organization.

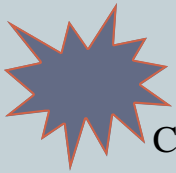
**Here are the highlights:**



MO-AHEAD is pleased to announce that **Jane Jarrow** will lead two audio conferences in the months to come. On November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 (1:30 – 3:00pm), Jane will host a session entitled: **YOUR STUDENTS ARE ONLINE, EVEN IF YOUR CLASSES ARE NOT!!!** She will talk about ways to best work with students with disabilities in hybrid classes (classes that occur both in-person and on Blackboard or some other Internet forum). On February 4<sup>th</sup> (1:30 – 3:00pm), Jane will lead us in a discussion called: **PLAYING UNDER THE NEW RULES**. Here, she will discuss the impact of the ADA and latest DOJ regulations, the latter of which will hopefully be announced a number of weeks prior to the audio conference. Registration information will be sent on the listserv in the weeks to come. These topics were specifically selected with the hope that campus MO-AHEAD members will invite faculty and administrators to listen in on the sessions.



As a way of supporting members very new to the field, MO-AHEAD will conduct occasional audio conferences for new disability service providers. The first such **audio conference** will be **September 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 – 3:00pm**. More information will be sent via the listserv. If you are new to the field, would like to hear about some of the basic things that you need to know to make the office run well, and would like to ask questions to people who have been at it awhile, please consider taking advantage of this opportunity.



Continuing with the support theme, MO-AHEAD is creating a mentorship program for service providers who would like to have the opportunity to converse with one of our more experienced MO-AHEAD members. We are not defining who is eligible to use a mentor but will leave that up to you. At this time, a pool of mentors from the executive board and the membership at large has been organized and is ready to roll. Mentors will commit to being available at least once monthly for phone conversations and then by email as often as needed. Anyone who would like to have a mentor is welcome to inquire by emailing Kim Fernandes at [kim.fernandes@mckkc.edu](mailto:kim.fernandes@mckkc.edu).

**Volunteer to be a  
MO-AHEAD Mentor!**

**If interested please  
contact**

**Kim Fernandes**

[Kim.fernandes@mckkc.edu](mailto:Kim.fernandes@mckkc.edu)

As an aside note, I am looking forward to representing Saint Louis University in a new US Department of Education grant project entitled Project ShIFT.

The project commences in Denver, CO in early August. Only 25 disability service offices across the country will participate in the project and Missouri is well represented with Katheryne Staeger-Wilson from Missouri State University and Melanie Thompson from Southeast Missouri State University also scheduled to take part. Katheryne, Melanie, and I have agreed to share our ShIFT experiences in a Q & A newsletter format that will hopefully be distributed in mid to late September. Since we work in different campus settings, I thought it might be informative to learn about how the project information is being used both similarly and differently at our schools. Information on the project can be found at

<http://www.lanecc.edu/disability/documents/grantabstract.pdf>

Finally, I am in the final six month stretch of my tenure as MO-AHEAD president. Kim Fernandes from Maple Woods Community College in Kansas, MO will assume the role of president in January 2010. This means that we will have an opening for Vice President at that time. More information on the opening and the election process will be sent via the listserv later in the year. Whether a long-standing member of MO-AHEAD or new to the organization yesterday, all current MO-AHEAD members are eligible to run for the VP position. Please consider joining a fantastic leadership group dedicated to the higher education disability cause in the state of Missouri.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and best wishes for the 2009-2010 academic year.

*Adam Meyer*

*MO-AHEAD President*



**MOAHEAD CONFERENCE  
OPPORTUNITIES**



**Jane Jarrow Audio  
conferences!**



**NEW DSS SERVICE  
PROVIDER AUDIO  
CONFERENCES!**

*A society grows  
great when old  
men plant trees  
whose shade they  
know they shall  
never sit in.  
-Greek Proverb*

## DID YOU KNOW?

The MO-AHEAD website has FREE  
resources for:

- ◆ Professionals
- ◆ Students
- ◆ Parents & Guardians

Visit us today at:  
[www.moahead.org/](http://www.moahead.org/)



## THE READING ROOM

### NEWEST RELEASE!

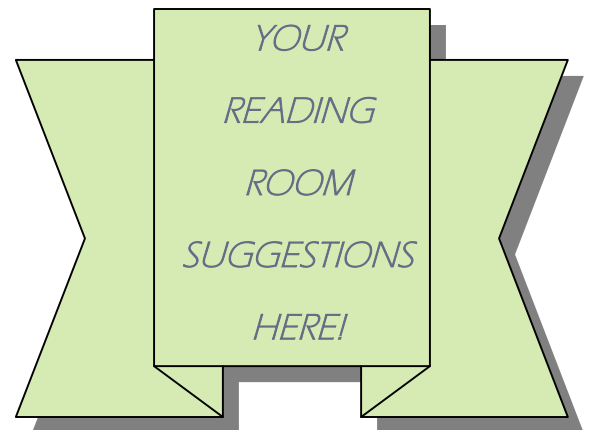
**The Way I See It:**  
**A Personal Look at Autism and Asperger's**  
*Grandin, Dr. Temple*

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

Please send your suggested reading room

resources to:

[Jennifer.argo@mcckc.edu](mailto:Jennifer.argo@mcckc.edu)



## MO-AHEAD Transition Training

*Submitted by Suelaine Matthews*

What do over 100 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation counselors throughout the State of Missouri have in common? All attended a Transition to College for Students with Disabilities Training presented by MO AHEAD. It all started with a friendly conversation between Barb Hammer of UM-Columbia and a DVR administrator. Both agreed that the training would be of benefit to DVR counselors and the rest is history. Full day trainings were conducted in Springfield, Cape Girardeau, Jefferson City, St. Louis and Kansas City.

The training objective was to give participants information about transition issues faced by students with disabilities in higher education. Specific topics covered included: reasonable accommodations, legal requirements, preparation for college, self-advocacy, differences in services provided and resources.

Special thanks needs to go out to Kathy Kelly from DVR who facilitated the trainings. Presenters from MO AHEAD were, Julie Edwards, Ozarks Technical Community College, Amy Frieling, Crowder Community College, Adam Meyer, St. Louis University, Suelaine Matthews, St. Louis Community College, and Karen Blessman, Fort Zumwalt School District. The trainings were held between March 11th and June 5th.

If you think high school educators, counselors or administrators in your area could benefit from this training, please contact Julie Edwards, [edwardsj@otc.edu](mailto:edwardsj@otc.edu), or Suelaine Matthews, [smatthews@stlcc.edu](mailto:smatthews@stlcc.edu).

Feedback from the DVR counselors was very positive and it is hoped that this training will be conducted every other year for DVR counselors. Below is a sampling of the many wonderful comments:

"This was a very enjoyable and informative presentation - and provided me information I can truly use."

"Fluid, kept it light. Kept it moving, good humor, stuff I can apply."

"Kept me interested and no overlapping information."

"Very comprehensive and useful!"

"I feel I can better prepare my clients for college with information provided today."

"This was not what I expected, but was more than I expected!"

"I have already used some of the MO AHEAD resources and they are very helpful in explaining DSS services to high school students."

"The "guide book" and on line resource info will be very helpful for me and teachers, parents and students I work with."

"One of the best trainings I have been to in a long time."

## Call for Nominations!

The main role of the MO-AHEAD Treasurer is to manage expenses and to collect money for conferences and dues.

The Treasurer also tracks the membership roster and notifies people when their dues are about to expire.

It is a three year term.

Any current MO-AHEAD member is eligible to run for the Treasurer position.

Members may nominate themselves or someone else.

Please submit all nominations to Kim Fernandes by **August 21, 2009**.

*Thank you!!*

**Amy Frieling**

*We are grateful for Amy's service to the MO-AHEAD organization!*

*Amy has been a great asset!*

*Amy has made some smart changes in her role!*

*Amy is always cheerful and greets people with a friendly smile!*

*Amy possesses a unique combination of a great sense of humor and professionalism!*

*You will be missed!*

## MO-AHEAD BOARD MEMBERS:

**Adam Meyer**  
President & Conference Chair

**Kim Fernandes**  
Vice President

**Amy Frieling**  
Treasurer

**Tabitha Haynes**  
Secretary, Historian, Guidebook Coordinator & Web Coordinator

**Karen Blessman**  
Liaison to Secondary Education

**Julie Edwards**  
Legislative & Transition Co-Chair

**Suelaine Matthews**  
Transition Co-Chair, & Conference Co-Chair

**Jennifer Argo**  
Newsletter Editor

**Maureen Ottenlips**  
Conference Co-Chair

**Jan Eudaley**  
Immediate Past President

Missouri  
Association on  
Higher Education  
&  
Disability