

Welcome from the President

It's been a while since the board has visited with you via newsletter! In fact, this is my first opportunity to greet you as MO-AHEAD president. As you know, I took over the position in August when our wonderful past president, Adam Meyer, left Missouri for an exciting new job opportunity. We miss his presence on the board, but we have had a lot happen since then!

We have seen some recent changes to our executive board. Tabitha Haynes has become

our vice-president, Jennifer Argo is our new secretary, and Judy Elimelech has joined the board as newsletter editor/conference co-chair. We have a great group and we're excited about what's in store for the future.

In November and February, the executive board helped bring to you audio conferences with Jane Jarrow. The first was on the topic of accommodations for online classes, and the second dealt with the ADA. Both were very informative, and I

hope the members who were able to participate found them to be valuable.

The board has had frequent conversations about how we can provide to the membership beneficial training opportunities in a user-friendly format. So many of us are dealing with budget constraints, but that is not decreasing our desire to stay current in our field and continue to learn! If you have any suggestions regarding training opportunities or resources that would be helpful to

you, please do not hesitate to contact me. All ideas are welcome! The board is very committed to providing membership benefits to you that you will find useful and worthwhile.

This year, our friends in Kansas are planning the regional conference at Tall Oaks. I hope we will get to see many of you there! It is always such a great opportunity to share and learn in a relaxing environment. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate and we'll get to enjoy nature. I think we've all had enough of the cold and dreary winter!

I hope you are all having a wonderful semester!

Kim Fernandes

Kim Fernandes, President



Kim Fernandes has a bachelor's degree in psychology and master's degree in counseling, both from Truman State University. Before

starting work in disability services at MCC-Maple Woods in 2001, she worked as a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor for six years. Kim became a MO-AHEAD board member in 2003, starting as a conference

co-chair. She was born and raised in St. Louis, but now lives in Kansas City with her husband and their eight-year old daughter.



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Tabitha Haynes, Vice President/Web Coordinator

THIS SATURDAY
MISSOURI STATE
WILL HAVE THEIR
FIRST ANNUAL
FILM FESTIVAL

GOOD LUCK,
TABITHA!

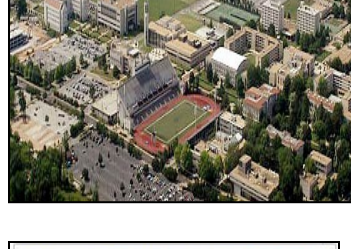


Tabitha Haynes has been with the Disability Services office at Missouri State University since 2001 and

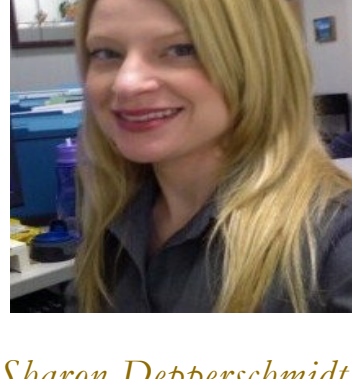
currently serves as the Assistant Director. She has worked with people with disabilities in various settings since 1989. Tabitha has been actively involved in MO-AHEAD since 2003 and has served on the Board as Secretary and Web Coordinator. Tabitha is also involved in advocacy and public affairs efforts, both at MSU and in the community.

Tabitha is originally from Texas and has lived in Missouri for 10 years. She graduated from Drury

University in 2004 with undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Criminology, and is currently working on her graduate degree in Psychology at Missouri State University. Tabitha is a volunteer advocate for the Victim Center and CASA. She has three fur-children Freebie, Autumn (cats) and Paisley (dog).

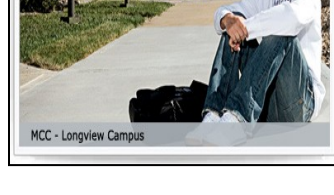


Jennifer Argo, Secretary



Jennifer Argo has been the Access Resource Educator at Metropolitan Community College-Longview since 2005. Prior to her current position Jennifer worked with the TRiO programs Student Support Services and Upward Bound at Northwest Missouri State

University. Jennifer is alumnae of Northwest Missouri State University where she studied Psychology and Counseling. Jennifer is the MOAHEAD Secretary and prior to this appointment was the MOAHEAD Newsletter Editor.



NCC - Longview Campus
Nearly 7,000 students each fall come to the Longview campus in Lee's Summit.

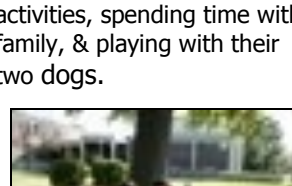
Sharon Depperschmidt, Treasurer



Sharon, the Assistant Director of Disability Services at Avila

University, a Catholic University that has an undergraduate enrollment of approximately 900 students and an overall full time enrollment of approximately 1800. She has held this position since 2005. Sharon began working as an adjunct at Johnson County Community College in 1997 and has been involved in their College, Learning, Experiences, Activities, & Resources (CLEAR) program. This program is designed for adult students who have mild intellectual disabilities. In 1988, she obtained a MS from University of Central Missouri (CMSU). Over the years, she has held various positions with the state of Missouri

and in the non-profit sector. She and her husband (Troy) enjoy outdoor activities, spending time with family, & playing with their two dogs.



Karen Blessman, K-12 Liaison

Karen Blessman currently serves as a Vocational Resource

Educator for the Fort Zumwalt School District in O'Fallon, Missouri. Prior to her current role, Karen served as a special education teacher and a school psychological examiner. Many years ago, she attended a MOAHEAD training for teachers and was so impressed she decided to

join the professional organization. It has been very helpful over the years to gain an understanding of the process and challenges faced by MOAHEAD members. This has helped Karen as she works to assist students moving from the secondary to the post-secondary systems.

Julie Edwards, Transition Training Committee Co-Chair

Julie is the Assistant Dean for Disability Support Services at Ozarks Technical Community College in Springfield, MO. She has been in the position at OTC since 1993 when an office of disability support was established. Her previous work experience included working at a private rehabilitation center, so her total work history in the field of rehabilitation services is now 26 years. Julie has been a member of MO AHEAD since 1994 or 95 and has served in various

leadership roles including president, Tall Oaks Conference Chair, Legislative representative and worked to help develop the transition training program.

Julie, and her partner, Steve are very proud of Julie's two amazing young sons, Chris (a senior at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, MO, and Andrew a high school junior.

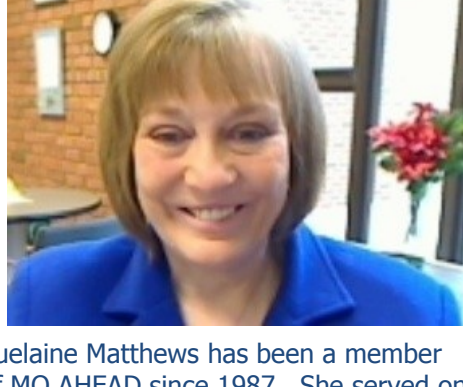
Founded in 1990, OTC operates primarily in Springfield, MO at the 40 acre main campus on the corner of Chestnut Expressway and National Avenue.



A fund raiser for a good cause—good luck, Karen!

The Fort Zumwalt Education Foundation is proud to announce the third annual golf tournament and fundraiser. This activity will help raise money for our Grow Your Own Teachers Program, created because of the need for more teachers in high needs areas (math, science, special education, industrial technology and foreign language). This program allows Fort Zumwalt seniors to apply and if selected, receive \$3,000 per semester to attend college. Once the student completes the requirements and becomes certified, he/she returns to Fort Zumwalt to teach. Currently six students are in the program. They are: Angela Schneider (NHS—Math), Robin Aston (SHS-Special Education), Megan Welby (WHS-Special Education), Kelsie Kestler (WHS-Special Education), Danielle Newton (WHS-Science), and Erin Herbig (EHS-math).

Sue Matthews, Transition Training Committee Co-Chair



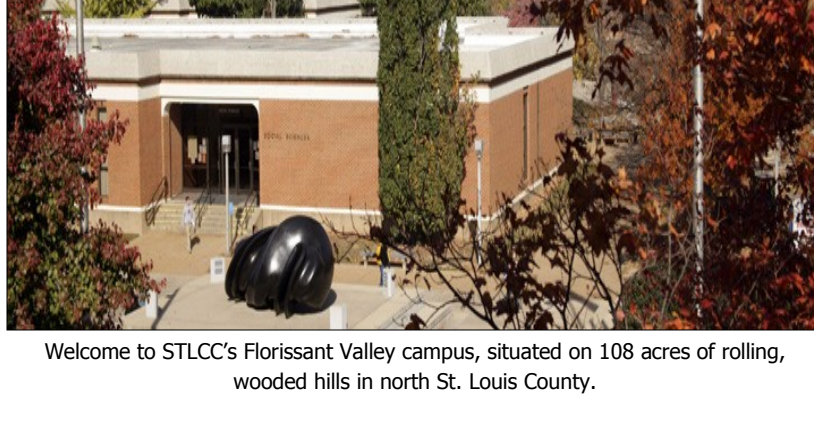
activities in her community, ranging from being a consultant for Hearing Impaired Program at Lewis and Clark Community college, and is involved with SSM Employment of Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, and the task force for the Midwest Center on Postsecondary Opportunities (MCPO), a Regional Center of PEPNet. In addition, she was appointed to the Statewide Task Force of Deaf Education by DESE and is a member of Special School Districts Transition Committee

She is happily married to John. has 3 children, Kerri Jo, Julie and John David and two and one half grandsons, John Daniel, Jacob and Miles who is due in May. In her spare time she loves to make greeting cards, play on the computer and play games with family.

Suelaine Matthews has been a member of MO AHEAD since 1987. She served on the Executive Board as Treasurer, President, and Transition Training Co-Cordinator and has co-presented the Missouri Transition to College Training to audiences throughout the state and at National Conventions.

Suelaine joined the St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley's Disability Support Services in 1987. Prior to 1987 she was at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, beginning as an Interpreter and moving to Disability Support Services in 1985. She also worked at St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley and established the Program for Deaf Student there. In addition, she was a Hearing Clinician in the Special School District for four years.

She received her MA in Speech Pathology and Audiology and enjoys numerous



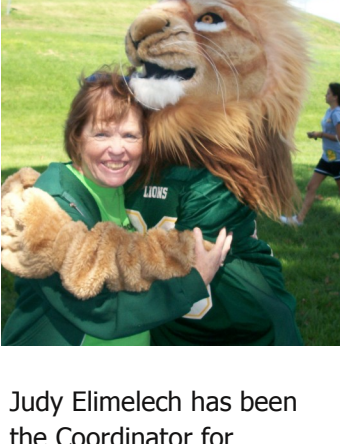
Welcome to STLCC's Florissant Valley campus, situated on 108 acres of rolling, wooded hills in north St. Louis County.

Suelaine's school has an interesting exhibit if you are in St. Louis, be sure to check out the Meramec Women's History Month Committee's presentation: *Photojournalistic Journeys of Recovering Women Cancer Survivors*. This is a display of pictures taken by recovering cancer patients at St. John's Mercy David C. Pratt Cancer Center, developed and formatted by Jan Sago's Photo II students.

Location: Meramec Campus,
11333 Big Bend Road
St. Louis, MO 63122-5720
Phone: 314-984-7500

If you need more information, contact Darlaine Gardetto at (314) 984-7695 or e-mail her at dgardetto@stlcc.edu. This is an event sponsored by Campus Life and is open to the public.

Judy Elimelech, Newsletter Editor/Tall Oaks Conference Co-Chair



Judy Elimelech has been the Coordinator for Disability Services at Missouri Southern State University since August, 2008. Prior to accepting the MSSU position, she was a Rehabilitation Counselor for 15 1/2 years at

Richland Community College, a part of the Dallas County Community College District, located in Dallas, Texas. She received her Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Texas, Southwestern Medical School's Allied Health Division in 1992 and a Master's of Art from Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, Texas in 1995. She lives with her two rescued animals, Hazach and Sunny. Her hobbies include, reading, hiking, and playing with her two great nephews, James and Everett. It was only after working in the business world as a bookkeeper/accountant for some 20 years that she realized what she wanted to do when she

grew up - work in academia, assisting students to realize their dreams and goals.



Biology Bond—Missouri Southern State University

MO AHEAD NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to Missouri AHEAD!

Missouri-AHEAD is a state-wide organization focused on strengthening the professionalism, expertise and competency of those working with students with disabilities at institutions of higher education across the state of Missouri by providing professional development and networking opportunities.

WE'RE ON THE

WEB!

www.moahead.org

LABELS ARE FOR
JARS, NOT
PEOPLE!



MO AHEAD

Save the date!
Go Green at Tall Oaks!

April 14, 15, & 16, 2010

The annual Great Plains Regional Higher Education & Disability Conference in Linwood, Kansas will feature **nationally renowned speaker Jane Jarow** and other presenters on post-secondary disability topics.

Topics include:

- Working with students who have Asperger's Syndrome
- The ever-changing world of alternative text
- Online accessibility & more!

Registration information coming your way soon!