Letter from the Editor: Emily Lucio

After five years of being Editor of the ALERT, it is time for me to step down. I have enjoyed working with so many AHEAD members and staff to develop six issues annually. I have learned a lot about all of the wonderful things so many of us do throughout the year. I hope you all have appreciated having this information as much as I have enjoyed pulling it all together for the benefit of the membership.

If anyone is interested in taking on the role of ALERT Editor, please contact Bea Awoniyi bea.awoniyi@sfcoll.edu or Stephan Smith stephan@ahead.org

It has been a pleasure working with you all and bringing you the news of our wonderful organization.

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Minnesotan friends are anxiously waiting our arrival as we come together like we do yearly to coalesce around our theme, “Diverse Perspectives: Creating A Vision for the Future.” The topic is relevant to our work as we continue to experience changes in perspectives and increased diverse opinions and needs. As professionals who always push for outside the box ideas and for creative solutions, the time cannot be more perfect for us to explore how we can continue to explore ways that we can participate in creating the vision for inclusive solutions. Conference committee chairs, Danette Saylor, Ann Knettler-Smith, Rachel Kruzel, and Caidin Riley have spent many months to ensure great programming and an amazing local experience for us in St. Paul, Minnesota. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

This is also a memorable year as our U.S. members join in the celebration of the silver jubilee of what we have come to regard as the freedom act for Americans with disabilities. President George H.W. Bush stated at the signing of the ADA on July 26, 1990, “I now lift my pen to sign this Americans with Disabilities Act . . . . Let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down.” The question for me, and I am sure for many others as well is, are the walls of exclusion for people with disabilities finally demolished? We all know even after twenty-five years, a time when we might say maturity has finally sunk in, the walls of segregation, indifference, injustice, exclusion, and many more walls continue to stand. The good news is that we continue to chip at the walls. What we do is not for the faint hearted and so we continue to move forward and continue to chip at the walls we find distasteful and disrespectful as we take a moment to celebrate what we have accomplished thus far. We will find ways in St. Paul to recognize what we have accomplished thus far and seek for ways to use our learning as springboard for our counterparts from across the world.

Lastly, your Board will come together right after the Conference to continue our visioning work and to conclude the strategic plan. This is a plan that will take us through the next five years so we approach this work with caution and seriousness. If you have any ideas that can help or suggestions for what we need to highlight in the next five years, please feel free to share them with me either in person at the Conference or by email or a simple phone call. I welcome your views and appreciate your contributions.

Sincerely,

Bea Awoniyi
AHEAD President
bea.awoniyi@sfcollege.edu
Professional Development Opportunities

Take advantage of these upcoming events, conferences, and other opportunities to increase and share your knowledge.

AHEAD 2015 is Going Virtual!
If you can’t attend the AHEAD conference in St. Paul, Minnesota this summer, don’t fret, you can still participate through AHEAD’s first ever Virtual Conference! It’s an innovative way to receive professional development right from your office or home. For more information visit:

http://ahead.org/meet/conferences/2015/virtual-conference

AHEAD 2015 Conference
Rachel Kruzel & Caidin Riley
Local Committee Co-Chairs

The AHEAD Conference is less than two months away! We’ve been busy planning an exciting week filled with music, food, and fun. Be sure to mark your calendars for the AHEAD sponsored events each night: The Welcome to Minnesota Reception Tuesday night, the Exhibit Hall Grand Opening and President’s Reception Wednesday Night, and the Thursday Evening Social Event at the Science Museum of Minnesota. If you are able to spend an extra day or two in the area, feel free to ask us for suggestions for local attractions to visit!

We’ve had some great donations for this year’s Silent Auction. Don’t forget to submit yours soon, and bring your checkbook for all the great items up for bid! Affiliates, don’t forget about the basket competition. May the best basket win!

We can’t wait to see you in July!

Other Important Information:

• Don’t forget to attend one of the Lunch & Learn sessions on Wednesday and Thursday of the conference, 12:45-1:45 pm. You don’t need to pre-register for these; you can grab a lunch and join us. Lunch & Learn session titles are listed on the 2015 conference website.

• Presenters: Check your email for important information about submitting your session handouts so that we can make them available to attendees. Remember that we don’t offer paper handouts for Concurrent sessions.

• The CRCC has pre-approved the AHEAD conference once again for CEU’s. All information and forms that you need to collect signatures will be in the Program Book on site. General Certificates of Attendance will be offered as well for those who would like them.

Webcast
AHEAD’s virtual learning continues with an informative webcast that will be available for download later this summer.

“Concussions: Understanding the Impact to the Brain and How to Best Create a Cohesive Approach to Providing Support Services,” is a two-part webcast offered by a team of medical and disability professionals that you can download and listen to at your convenience. Details for purchasing and downloading this webcast will be available at the AHEAD homepage in coming weeks.

We’re also in the midst of planning next year’s webinar and webcast series. Let us know what topics you’d like to see AHEAD offer. Please send your suggestions to richard@ahead.org
Standing Committees

Member Development
*Mika Watanabe & Ken Marquard, Co-chairs*

**AHEAD International Reception Event**
In our continued efforts to address the concerns of international members and promote international membership, the Member Development Committee has been busy preparing for another International Reception at this year’s Conference in St. Paul.

The Committee has taken a rather innovative approach to this Reception. We are working on a “Time Capsule” event and will be encouraging international members to share short “Greetings!” videos so that we may begin to get to know everyone and perhaps stimulate greater collaboration and other common initiatives.

**New Committee Members**
Member Development has also welcomed to the Committee international member Véra Dolan who has already been busy contributing to our International Reception plans. Véra, originally from Brazil, has lived and worked in Toronto for several decades. The Committee has also welcomed Starlett Vaught of Pitt Community College and Autumn Wilke of Grinnell College to the ranks.

AHEAD members are welcome to visit the Committee web page at http://www.ahead.org/standing-committees/member-development

Professional Development
*Sharon Downs, Chair*

To continue SCPD’s new concept for ALERT in which we ask several disability service providers provide responses to a specific question, I asked two colleagues about innovative approaches to notetaking as an accommodation and also provided some information about improvements we’re making at UALR. Notetaking is not a simple accommodation to implement for many reasons, including the sheer number of people power required, the coordination of numerous classes, and the variable quality of the notes. This article provides a bit of insight from three universities who are working to improve notetaking on their campuses.

**From Kimberly Tanner | Director of Access Office | Valdosta State University**
These days, the complexity of course design makes determining if the course is inaccessible a more complicated process. We also have to pay attention to whether or not the notetaking accommodation actually eliminates a barrier to access. For example, if a course is “flipped,” a student with ADHD who would have experienced a barrier accessing the traditional lecture may no longer have an access issue if the lecture materials were completed outside of class and the class time is used instead for hands-on application activities. Since we are not able to investigate the design of each class when a notetaking accommodation is requested, we ask students to evaluate the course prior to making the request.

In years past, the majority of students would request Faculty Letters once they knew their course schedule and before the start of the class. Now, the majority of our students attend class first to learn more about the design of the course in order to determine what elements, if any, will create a barrier to access. As a result of this trend, we have seen a drop in the number of requests for notetaking accommodations. In particular, an increase in number of faculty making presentation materials available via the Learning Management System...
for all students appears to be behind this trend. Where a student in five classes may have requested five Faculty Letters with the same accommodations for each, we may now see a student request three letters that are all different. This is particularly true of the notetaking accommodation, which may only be requested in one or two courses, if any. This small change has made a big impact for the department, and for students.

From Jen Duggar | Director of Disability Resource Center | Portland State University

The way the accommodation of notetaking is provided at PSU evolved dramatically two years ago after a change in leadership of the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Here are the changes that were made:

- Eligible students request accommodations as they’re registering for their courses; however, they’re asked to log back in and confirm their need once they’ve been to at least one class meeting. This avoids situations where students are requesting accommodations that they may not need due to the design of the course.
- Rather than faculty being solely responsible for ensuring a notetaker is found, the DRC now begins this search. Interested students can sign up in the AIM database to be considered as notetakers, and the DRC follows up from there.
- Notes are uploaded by course within the database so all eligible students can download them anonymously.
- If the DRC has no luck in finding a note taker, faculty are requested to assist us in the search.
- Students are also made eligible to receive overheads and PowerPoint slides prior to class beginning and to audiorecording the lecture as a back-up to the note taking service.

Feedback from a recent student survey is fueling us to continually make the service more effective. Future plans include recruiting and training notetakers proactively on campus, re-messaging to faculty about this being a compliance issue, and ensuring students understand how audiorecording a class can be helpful. It’s no small task, but we’re making progress and we know where our deficits are...guess that’s about all we can do!

Sharon Downs | Director of Disability Resource Center | University of Arkansas at Little Rock

At UALR, we began taking steps last year to provide training to potential notetakers. We’ve started out small, but are working to scale it up this coming academic year. We coordinated with several of the scholarship programs to speak at their orientation week activities to give a presentation on how to be a skilled notetaker. This is presented as a skill that will help them for the rest of their academic careers, and students are typically quite engaged. At the end of that training, we then talk about students who need notetakers, and how they could be instrumental in this process with very little effort. We appeal to their sense of civic responsibility, and also lay out how they can earn service hours through their scholarship program by sharing their notes. This year we are going to provide this training to many more groups, including fraternities and sororities, and are hopeful this will help improve notetaking for all students.

As you can see, notetaking as an accommodation is not quick and easy to set up, and it requires a lot of thought, planning, and collaboration. I hope this information is helpful to you. Good luck!
Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Community College SIG
Jennifer Radt, Chair

The Community College Special Interest Group will be meeting on Wednesday, July 15 at 12:45 p.m. during the AHEAD Conference in St. Paul. Check your program book upon arrival to confirm the location. We will be discussing best practices in assessment so bring your examples and tips to share. We will also have time for networking. Door prizes will be offered! If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Radt at Jennifer.Radt@uc.edu. Everyone is welcome!
Affiliate’s Corner

Terra Beethe, Affiliate Liaison BOD
Kim Ochsenbein, Lead Affiliate Representative

Affiliate Update
The Affiliates held a Spring Conference Call on April 31st with 28 of 35 affiliates in attendance. The phone focused on updates from AHEAD and news from each affiliate.

AHEAD 2015 is quickly approaching and the affiliates are gearing up for tons of fun in St Paul. Be sure to come by our exhibit hall booth for information on the latest affiliate news, enter the drawing for one of Elizabeth Harrison’s infamous AHEADgehogs, and a fun surprise regarding AHEAD 2016 in Indianapolis!

Affiliate representatives will come together on July 16th in St. Paul for our annual affiliate breakfast. This time will allow us networking, programming, and development opportunities. Our friendly Silent Auction theme basket competition is back for a third year! We invite you be sure to visit the Silent Auction to check out the theme baskets for this year. Remember, the proceeds support the AHEAD Scholarship Fund and with the buy it now option, baskets will go FAST!

The 2014 winners were: Most Creative: Indiana AHEAD; Highest Earning Basket: New York State Disability Service Council; Most Impressive Basket: South Carolina University & College Council of Educators Empowering Disabled Students (SUCCEEDS)

This time of year brings regional professional development conferences and awards. There are so many amazing things happening within the affiliates as noted in the updates below. For the most current information regarding the affiliates, be sure to check out the Regional Affiliate page on the AHEAD website.

Regional Affiliates Updates

AHEAD in Texas held the AHEAD in Texas Conference “Riding the Waves of Change” at Moody Gardens in Galveston, Texas, April 8-10, 2015. Over 100+ service providers from all over Texas attended the conference. Barbara Blacklock was the Keynote speaker for this event.

AHEAD of the Northern Rockies annual state conference was held in Great Falls, MT June 4-5, 2015.

Alabama AHEAD will be co-sponsoring an event at the Faulkner University campus in Montgomery, AL, regarding PTSD and our veteran student populations. The event will be cosponsored by DSS centers at Faulkner University and Auburn University Montgomery, and by veteran service centers from the same universities. This event will have speakers from the Center for Deployment Psychology (CDP) UC4 programming which is a tri-service psychology training consortium headquartered at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USU) in Bethesda, Maryland.

Ark-AHEAD: Ark-AHEAD President Doris Pierce has been chosen to be a part of the Academic Quality Improvement Plan (AQIP) Accreditation Team at Pulaski Technical College. Ark-AHEAD Two-Year College Representative Karen O’Donohoe was awarded a $500.00 scholarship from the Arkansas Council on Women in Higher Education (ACHWE) to continue her doctoral studies at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Ark-AHEAD Secretary Karen Russ was chosen as a member of the Depository Library Council (DLC) by the United States Government Publishing Office (GPO). Former Ark-AHEAD board member (Vice-President 2010 and President 2011-2012) Katy Washington, J.D. has been hired on as the Director for the Center for Educational Access at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.
Ark-AHEAD hosted its Spring Workshop with Teresa Haven, Ph.D. and Jamie Axelrod, MS, AHEAD President-Elect from Northern Arizona University. Dr. Haven’s presented on AT, EIT, Accessibility, Usability: What the DS Professional Needs to Know about Technology in the 21st Century. Jamie presented on Don’t Fan the Flames!: Turn Angry Faculty Emails into Positive Outcomes; Ark-AHEAD President Doris Pierce and Two-Year College Representative Karen O’Donohoe attended the Arkansas Council of Women in Higher Education (ACHWE) yearly conference; President Doris Pierce, Ark-AAN President & Ark-AHEAD Private College Representative Julie Brown and Ark-AHEAD Members Cynthia Holleman and Rochelle Redus attended the Arkansas Academic Advising Network (Ark-AAN) yearly conference.

**CAPED:** We are thrilled to welcome CAPED 2015 to San Diego, CA. We hope that you will join us in “America’s Finest City,” as we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the ADA at the annual CAPED Training and Convention. Convention will be located in the lively Gaslamp Quarter of Downtown San Diego. Preconvention activities will begin on October 2-3, 2015 and convention will take place October 4-6, 2015. This year’s theme of “Ability in Action...Waves of Success” is designed to highlight student’s abilities in action, as well as, discover strategies implemented throughout the state to facilitate student success. Let’s catch the waves of success and ride them together! We have lots of fun activities planned in addition to an outstanding program, so register today! We look forward to seeing you in sunny San Diego.

To register go to: [https://caped.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mc&view=mc&mcid=form_194192](https://caped.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mc&view=mc&mcid=form_194192) Reserve your room today at the Westin Gaslamp Quarter by clicking the link below. The special hotel rate will be available until September 11, 2015. Please note that the Westin is donating $5.00 per night booked to CAPED student scholarships. To book your room go to: Westin Gaslamp Reservations-CAPED 2015 Additional convention information will be posted on the new CAPED website at www.CAPED.co

**C-AHEAD and MD-AHEAD** hosted the “Accessible Instructional Materials & Technology Summit” on June 18 & 19, 2015 in Columbia, MD. This 2-day conference brought together national figures in accessibility issues from the Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, the National Federation of the Blind, the United States Access Board and The Association on Higher Education and Disability, among others. The speakers addressed our obligations for accessibility of all types of instructional materials and on developing an institutional plan for accessibility of instructional materials and technology and how we can work collaboratively to address those expectations.

**Connecticut AHEAD** hosted a meeting on April 17 between residence life staff and disability service providers. The purpose of the meeting was to prepare students for the transition to residence life, and to troubleshoot issues providers are facing across their campuses. Topics included: Therapy pets/emotional support animals; food allergies; social disorders; training for residence hall students/employees; areas of refuge in old buildings; models for sharing information between disability services and residence life.

**Florida AHEAD:** AHEAD’s own Dr. Bea Awoniyi was awarded the FL AHEAD’s Ken Marquard Award of Excellence at this year’s spring conference. Keynote speaker: Paul Nolting on “Math Disabilities, Documentation and Course Substitution”

**ILLOWA AHEAD** (Iowa and Illinois) offered two Roundtables this spring. New information about College Student Mental Health featuring David Towle, Ph.D. was paired with afternoon Roundtable discussion on: Accommodating Students with Mental Health Conditions. This Roundtable was offered in March on the campus of Wartburg College in Waverly, IA.

The second Roundtable titled: Helping Faculty Understand Sheldon’s Spot: Couching Autism through the Big Bang Theory was hosted at Eastern Illinois University. Permission to use this presentation is given by the creators LISA MEEKS, PH.D., JENNIFER MURCHISON, M.A., & MICHELLE RIGLER, ED.D. Following this presentation a discussion was led by Dr. Gail Richard, Professor Emeritus: Director of Autism Center, exploring the Transition of Sheldon to University Life: Supports and Strategies to find his “Spot.”

Elections to fill 4 Board member positions will be held early June.

The ILLOWA Bi-Annual conference will be held spring of 2016 in Champagne, IL. More information about the conference will follow in the fall.
Indiana AHEAD: The IN-AHEAD Spring 2015 Conference was held at Purdue University’s main campus on March 26th & 27th. We were very excited to welcome L. Scott Lissner as our keynote speaker. Scott provided ADA updates and hosted an “ADA Café,” during which members could ask specific questions and seek guidance about disability issues, policies, and practices on their campuses. We were also pleased to welcome back Dr. David Parker from CRG in Indianapolis. Dr. Parker has been an invited speaker in the past, but he delved into a new topic this time around, providing members with a ½ day session called “Got Bounce?” The session summarized relevant research on resilience and grit, related student stories that address this phenomenon, and gave members ideas about promoting resilience and grit in their own student populations. We also opted to try something new and intentionally created a session for small group “table talks.” The roundtable topics included campus mentoring programs, developing groups for specific populations (LD/ADHD, Autism Spectrum, chronic medical, etc...), and alternative formats/AT/auxiliary services. This format was very successful and individuals responded favorably. Finally, we had 19 attendees join us for dinner and an impromptu birthday celebration for 3 of our members, who remarkably, shared birthdays within one day of each other! In my 6 years of attending IN-AHEAD events, this is the largest group outing I can remember, and the sharing, commiserating and shop-talk continued through to the evening!

Kan-AHEAD hosted a spring conference at the University of Kansas on Friday, April 10, 2015. The conference featured a live web cast of Jodi Sleeper-Triplett from JST Coaching on “Coaching the Struggling Student”. Also presenting were Great Plains ADA Center staff and the KU ADA Coordinator, Jamie Simpson, on the topic of “Not only Physical – Programmatic Access and Inclusion”. A state meeting was also held.

Kentucky AHEAD: KY AHEAD Conference was held May 20th to 22nd at Lake Barkley State Resort Park. Our theme was “Unlocking the Best Kept Secrets in Disability Services.” Dr. David Parker was our Keynote Presenter, discussing “Promoting Self-Determination through Enhanced Resilience” and “What Do We Know About...? Using the DS Literature to Inform our Practice.” Our featured event was a sundown cruise on the lake.

Maryland AHEAD: Apr. 24, 2015 - Perspectives in Assistive Technology: Ways to Improve Access and Inclusion in the Academic Setting for Campus Students and Distance Learners – Information relevant to collaborative efforts, common barriers with Accessible Technology and Instructional Materials, types of assistive technology products that enhance productivity and ways to improve learning outcomes. Keynote Speaker: Mark Riccobono, President, National Federation for the Blind

Michigan AHEAD: The Spring 2015 Conference is coming on May 15th. It is located in East Lansing, MI and Amanda Kraus from the University of Arizona will be the keynote. The annual presentation of the Marge Award, given in honor of Margaret A. Chmielewski for outstanding lifelong leadership, warm sense of humor, commitment to the support of the disability community, and the pursuit of personal development in post-secondary education, will take place at the conference. This year, we will have two honorees, Cynthia Woiderski from Saginaw Valley State University and Elaine High from Michigan State University.

Missouri AHEAD hosted its second annual Spring Professional Development Conference on Friday, May 29, on the campus of University of Missouri, in Columbia, Missouri. The one-day drive-in conference featured Claire Fitzgerald, attorney for the Department of Education Office for Civil Rights in Kansas City. She highlighted recent developments in higher education & offer a Q&A session in the morning session. The conference closed with a presentation by a local neuropsychologist on Disability as Represented in Art throughout History. The conference was organized to allow for networking and sharing of expertise and experiences among colleagues.
**New England AHEAD** had a wonderful two-day conference this month where we focused on policy development. Dr. Salome Hayward was our keynote speaker and helped to guide us in reworking or developing polices around online learning, housing, assistance animals, procurement and alternative text. It was a rounding success.

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Above: Photo of New England AHEAD attendees.

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**New Mexico AHEAD** hosted a spring conference in Albuquerque, NM on June 25-26th.

**New Jersey AHEAD** granted three memorial scholarships to members attending the 14th Annual University of Pennsylvania Disability Symposium. The scholarship for registration is granted in memory of a former Vice President, Barbara Atikins, formerly of Thomas Edison State College.

New York State Disability Services Council: There is an ADA 25th Anniversary Celebration slated for the June 2015 NYSDSC Meeting, open to all NYSDSC members. On the Agenda for the 25th Anniversary Celebration is an invitation to all members to network with other DSS professionals that are members of regional consortia across NYS, sign up to be a member of a consortium and receive information about ongoing activities and initiatives. The session encourages members to become involved on a regional level with other campuses that support students with disabilities.

The NYS Board of Regents recently approved the formation of an Advisory Council on Access to Higher Education for Students with Disabilities (March 2014). NYSED, in collaboration with the NYDSC, has formed this Council, titled the NYSED Advisory Council on Post-Secondary Education for Students with Disabilities, and begun targeting joint issues for students with disabilities in New York State. Topics include: legislative-regulatory, assistance and support, marketing and outreach, ACCES-VR, data collection, and outcome assessment in post-secondary education.

Ad hoc Higher Education Data System (HEDS) Committee continued to make progress toward development of a means for consistent data reporting on students with disabilities across higher education institutions. The committee was asked to present to the NYSED Advisory Council with recommendations on defining disability categories to be counted.

NYSDSC Executive Board members spearheaded a movement to encourage state legislators to support an ADA TAP Reform Bill in New York State that was drafted to support students with disabilities that are disqualified from receiving TAP due to their inability to take more than 3 credit hours per semester. The Reform Bill was cut from the NYS Budget during the first round of negotiations, but was lobbied heavily and made it back into the NYS Budget.

**North Carolina AHEAD** awarded two disability service professionals who were nominated as displaying outstanding service to individuals with disabilities and the disability community. Liz Johnson, Director of Disability Support at ECU, received the Pat Bailey award. Donna Gray, Deputy Director, City of Greensboro Human Relations Department, received the Laura Thomas award.

**Oklahoma AHEAD** hosted its Annual Conference on April 9-10, 2015 at the University of Central Oklahoma located in Edmond, Oklahoma. Topics included transition into higher education, assistive technology, and others.

**ORAHEAD** (Oregon) has been working with Alaska to update the accessibility of the electronic version of the Disability History Exhibit (http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcde/Pages/history/index.aspx). We have also purchased the full print version to be a travelling exhibit for the state/greater region and are working with the state to create a prominent display for ADA25.

The ORAHEAD spring conference was held on April 23-24, 2015 at Portland State University. The conference included pre-con sessions that were attended by 30, and the full conference attended by 59. Many staff members from the state Voc Rehab office also attended. The ORAHEAD fall conference is being planned for November 4-6, 2015 at the Surfsand Resort in Cannon Beach, Oregon.

**TNAHEAD** hosted its annual spring conference and business meeting March 11-13, 2015, at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, TN. Through this
year’s theme, “Honoring Our History and Planning our Future Through Innovative Partnerships,” we celebrated the 20th anniversary of TNAHEAD and the 25th anniversary of the ADA. In addition, our goal was to facilitate identifying opportunities for innovation and collaboration as we head into the future. TNAHEAD has begun the planning for the 2016 Spring Conference in Chattanooga, TN.

Janet Norman (Austin Peay State University) and Kathy Ebel (Chattanooga State Community College) presented to the 2015 Tennessee School Counselor & Administrator Leadership Institute that was held in March, 2015. Their presentation dealt with the transition from high school to postsecondary education for students with disabilities, with a special emphasis on students on the autism spectrum. Members continue to speak with groups regarding various topics dealing with students with disabilities in postsecondary education.

**Utah AHEAD** has a newly elected Executive Council: Candida Darling, President; David Pruden, Vice President; Becky Zabriskie, Treasurer.

**WAPED:** The 2015 Spring Conference was held in Leavenworth, Washington. Representatives from the University of Montana joined us as the keynote presenters to share their experiences with the landmark OCR case, campus-wide accessibility work, and reflections on lessons learned as a result. Other conference topics included: working with students in clinical and internship experiences, incorporating academic coaching into DS offices, and exploring easy and helpful apps for students.

**WINAHEAD’s** (Western Iowa and Nebraska) was held May 14-15 in Grand Island, NE. The main focus was technology and assistive devices. Attendees were encouraged to bring Ipads for a hands-on training. The Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired staff presented on technology and assistive devices designed specifically for the Blind, low vision and visually impaired.
A treasured colleague and record setter is set to retire soon. Jake Karnes of the University of Kentucky is thought to be one of the longest serving Disability Services directors, at forty-four years [he is also completing fifty years at UK counting his student days], and quite possibly the last active of the charter founders of AHSSPPE/AHEAD. Known for his quiet southern accent, Jake always had some good insight to add to a discussion whether at the national AHEAD, Indiana, Kentucky, or Tennessee Ahead. Scores of UK students with disabilities have benefited from his wise counsel, encouragement, and good humor. Jake and his wife are headed for an Ireland trip as their first order of business after he turns over his keys.