Letter from the Editor: Emily Lucio

It is almost that time again! Hopefully you have purchased your plane ticket and made your hotel reservation in California. I hope to meet many of you in Sacramento! Let me take a minute to highlight some of the wonderful things about the conference. In addition to the sessions and all of the professional development opportunities to network, there is the silent auction (located in the Exhibit Hall) which raises money for our scholarship. Please make sure to stop by those tables to look at the wonderful items and place a bid. It’s for a great cause!

The exhibitor booths provide an opportunity to learn about new products, and during the grand opening Wednesday evening you can enjoy musical entertainment and delicious food! Finally, make sure to go to the banquet and plenary sessions to hear more wonderful speakers and enrich your knowledge. I know we always get a warm welcome wherever we go and I am certain that Sacramento and all of the people from California will be wonderful hosts. See you there!

Emily (Singer) Lucio
ALERT Editor (lucio@cua.edu)
Letter from AHEAD President: L. Scott Lissner

This will be my last ALERT article as President so it seems appropriate that I reflect on my tenure and on the future. It has been an exciting two years and I think the organization is healthier than ever. I wish I could take credit for that, but in reality the credit needs to go to our board, our committees, our affiliates, and our staff. The board members I have served with have motivated, informed, and channeled my thinking; my decisions reflect the behind-the-scenes leadership in our standing committees, conference committees and affiliates; and those decisions could not have become actions without our talented and supportive staff (thank you Richard, Tri, Jeremy, Jane, Valerie, & Oanh) under Stephan’s thoughtful management.

The last four years on the Board as President Elect and then President provide a perspective on where AHEAD has come since it was founded in March of 1978 and were we might be going in the next 36 years. All the key organizational indicators show we are as strong as we have ever been. Membership is up and our finances are solid despite trying economic times; legislators, agencies, sister organizations, and businesses are turning to AHEAD for both technical assistance and leadership on disability issues in higher education. JPED is thriving (thanks David Parker) as is the ALERT (thanks Emily Lucio) and our training programs. We had a competitive election (congrats to all) with what amounts to a good voter turnout. In fact we are so healthy that there is cause for concern.

Thirty-seven is a bit young for a midlife crisis, but AHEAD is approaching a crossroads as an organization. We can maintain the status quo, target marginal growth, and simply keep up with the times or we can take stock and identify additions to our organizational portfolio. Can AHEAD engage and support students by perhaps developing a student branch of our organization? Do we reach down into transition issues and parents or up transition service for employers? Do we engage in direct research, publishing, or lobbying, and do we broaden our focus beyond education?

As our organization faces change we also see changes in our work environment and context. The role of international study, technology, and assessment; the balance between service and self-advocacy, accommodation and seamless access, provider and consultant continue to evolve.

I leave these strategic decisions to Bea and the Board and encourage you to engage with them on our listserv, through committee and affiliate participation, and in ways we have not yet conceived.

Thank You,

L. Scott Lissner
Professional Development Opportunities

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

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**AHEAD 2014**  
July 14 – 19, 2014  
Sacramento, California  
The Sacramento Convention Center, The Hyatt Regency Hotel, & The Sheraton Sacramento Hotel

As the ALERT goes to press, the Early Registration deadline has passed - but there’s still time to join your colleagues at the AHEAD Conference and pepnet 2 Training Institute in beautiful California!

The AHEAD conference is designed specifically with disability resources and services managers in mind. We have in-depth preconference workshops and concurrent sessions for new and seasoned professionals to increase your knowledge of ADA rules and regulations, and aspects of disability, as well as practical tips for managing your office, and student services.

The pepnet 2 Training Institute offers essential information on best practices for serving deaf and hard of hearing students.

We hope you take advantage of this unique training event. Program and registration information can be found at: [http://www.ahead.org/meet/conferences/2014](http://www.ahead.org/meet/conferences/2014)

I hope you’ll join us in Sacramento!

*Richard Allegra*  
*AHEAD Director of Professional Development*
Standing Committees

Standing Committee on Professional Development
Sharon Downs, Chair

We hope you’re all able to come to the 2014 AHEAD Conference in Sacramento in a few weeks! It will be an amazing week of networking and professional development like you just can’t get anywhere else.

AHEAD’s Board and Standing Committee on Professional Development are pleased to bring you the AHEAD Start and OUT OF THE BOX III conference strands at the conference. These are coordinated, comprehensive programs for new and seasoned professionals that will challenge your thinking and help you grow in your field.

In addition, we are excited to bring you Running a DS Office: It is YOUR Business! This conference strand will focus on vision and strategic planning, establishing an emerging technologies committee, and in general being a leader on your campus.

We have two new members on the Standing Committee on Professional Development (Mai McDonald and Nissim Louis), who are joining our existing members (Margaret Camp, Carol Funckes, Adam Meyer, and Randall Ward). I’d say we have an all-star team! I’d like to thank Heather Mole, and Carol Funckes before her, for their work in leading the group up to this point. As you may know, Heather Mole has had to step aside as chair of this committee due to her work circumstances. I have taken over as chair, and I am honored to have this opportunity to serve the AHEAD membership in this way. I have enjoyed my work in this group the last few years, and look forward to being productive and creative with our team in the coming year. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Standing Committee on Public Policy
Emily Lucio, Chair
Eric Wagenfeld, Co-Chair

As many of you know the hot topic in policy right now is the ratification of the CRPD. Ratification provides the U.S. an opportunity to play an important and expansive role in the development of disability rights around the world without having to change any U.S. laws or add additional costs to its budget. On December 4, 2012 the United States Senate considered the ratification of the CRPD but fell 5 votes short of the super majority vote required. The media coverage of the Senate’s failure to ratify the disability treaty has been overwhelming and the CRPD’s Senate leaders remain committed to bringing the disability treaty up in the 113th Congress. AHEAD is one of the many supporters of this ratification. The Public Policy committee continues to get the word out to members and encourage them to contact their Senator’s for support. There is a wonderful video by Sen. Harkin (D. IA) that is worth watching and sharing: http://www.harkin.senate.gov/help/crpdstories.cfm We encourage AHEAD members to support this. For more information, go to: http://www.disabilitytreaty.org/
Standing Committee on Member Development
Mika Watanabe, Co-Chair
Ken Marquard, Co-Chair

International members of AHEAD arriving at our Sacramento Convention have something special to anticipate. The Standing Committee on Member Development has been working to make their arrival and experience a unique one.

As registration for the Conference continues, international delegates are being contacted and arrangements are being made to bring them together for a Reception and Forum. There is always the richness of diversity of cultures that makes international gathering like this memorable. Some members have traveled great distances, and the Committee hopes that they will feel refreshed by the experiences planned.

How are international members able to move disability issues forward with legal backing, with funding resources, and with innovation and challenges that can be very different from those experienced by AHEAD members in some places such as Europe and North American? More importantly, how do our diverse experiences allow us to develop new insights and ideas for the future? These may be some of the questions and challenges posed at the International Reception and Forum held on the evening of Thursday, July 17th.

The Member Development Standing Committee encourages members, especially those who would like to explore international perspectives on disability, or who would like to volunteer to participate in any of our outreach activities to contact Mika Watanabe, Co-Chair of Committee, at mikawt@mso.umt.edu, Michael Shuttic, Chair of the International Reception, at mshuttic@stgregorys.edu, or Ken Marquard, Co-Chair, at dr.kenmarquard@gmail.com.

Research Development Committee
Mary Lee Vance, Chair

Currently Under Review: Research designed to improve services that directly impact the lives of LGBT students in higher education that are living with chronic health conditions and disabilities.

Inquiry from doctoral candidate - Topic: Career decision-making patterns of college students with High Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorders (HFAADs), Learning Disabilities (LDs) and college students without disabilities. Proposal form sent to researcher - no return response.

Approved to be shared in ALERT. Topic: Executive Functioning through Cognitive Remediation for College Students with Psychiatric Disabilities (PI) Michelle G. Mullen, MS, Assistant Professor and Professions Giovanna Giacobbe, Faculty members from Rutgers University, Department of Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Counseling Professions.

Approved for AHEAD Research of Membership, December 2013. Researchers: ScoKupferman, Doctoral candidate and Jared Schultz, Associate Professor, Director of Rehabilitation Counseling Program, Utah State University. Topic: Supporting Students with Psychiatric Disabilities in Postsecondary Education: Essential Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes.
Affiliate’s Corner

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

2014 AHEAD is quickly approaching and the affiliates are gearing up for tons of fun in Sacramento. 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 2015 in St. Paul!

Affiliate representatives will come together on July 17th in Sacramento 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 2013 winners were:
Most Creative: Tennessee AHEAD
Highest Earning Basket: Wisconsin AHEAD
Most Impressive Basket: New York State Disability Services Council

Best,
Terra Beethe, AHEAD Secretary and Affiliate Liaison BOD

AHEAD of the Northern Rockies will hold their annual conference at the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, MT on June 13, 2014. Aaron Grusonik, Montana State University Associate Dean of Students, and Chip Kern, Montana State University counselor will speak about current trends, conduct, and mental health issues. Jim Marks, from Montana Vocational Rehabilitation will speak to us about the 50/50 cost sharing agreement for interpreting services and provide an update on Vocational Rehabilitation services. Leslie Taylor, Legal Counsel from Montana State University will speak to us about current legal ADA issues. For more information please contact Kathy Meier at katherine.meier@gfcmsu.edu

FL-AHEAD: In 2012 FL-AHEAD established an annual award, The Dr. Marquard Award, which is presented to an exemplary Disability Service Professional. Dr. Marquard was one of the core persons involved in the formation of FL-AHEAD and has been an inspiration to all professionals in Florida’s colleges and universities. Mr. Marquard, the retired Director of ACCESS and the MEED Program at Miami Dade College, was the first recipient of the award and this past year it was awarded to Peg Connell, Disability Services Director at St. Petersburg College. The award is granted through a nomination process through FL-AHEAD to individuals who demonstrate exemplary work and a dedication to the field of disability services and is presented at the FL-AHEAD spring conference. Requirements for the award are; a) the nominator must be a current member of FL-AHEAD and b) the nominee must be a member of FL-AHEAD for 2 consecutive years with 3 years of work experience in the field and c) they must have contributed noteworthy service to FL-AHEAD and the disability service profession in Florida.

MOAHEAD (Missouri AHEAD) held its first annual “Unconference” on Friday May 30 on the University of Missouri campus in Columbia. The “unconference” concept is a new way to engage in professional development as it is participant driven, where topics are identified by those attending, and where discussions/sessions draw on the experience and expertise of the same. Topics addressed during the unconference included: service/support animals, technology, students requesting additional absences, students on the autism spectrum, note taking and medical/health professions students and technical standards.
NYSDSC (New York State Disability Services Council) will be hosting its spring conference on June 23, 24, 25th at the Inn on the Lake in Canandaigua, NY. Preconference Workshop June 23rd is entitled, “Social Model at Work: Shifting Office Practices” presented by Adam Meyer, PhD, CRC Director, Student Disability Services at University of Central Florida. Other topics include Program Assessment & Developing Student Learning Outcomes Workshop, Accessibility Training on Microsoft, Technology Vendors and Shifting Student Perception from the Medical to Social Model of Disability with Bruce Darling, Center for Disability Rights, Inc., Rochester. For conference registration and the full schedule please visit: http://www.nysdsc.org/spring-event-registration/

SUCCEEDS, the South Carolina affiliate for AHEAD, will host Stephan J. Smith, executive director of AHEAD, on Friday, October 10, 2014 for its Fall Conference. Smith will present of all things...#imaginedisability to help affiliate members in the management and marketing of disability services offices. The conference will be head at Midlands Technical Community College at the Harbison Boulevard campus. SUCCEEDS hosts a Fall and Spring workshop for its members. For more information, please contact Dede Norungolo, Chair, at norungo@clemson.edu.

WINAHEAD (Western Iowa and Nebraska) had a very informative Spring conference May 15 -16 in North Platte, Nebraska. Thursday morning, Keith Bundy, Assistant Dean for Student Development at Dakota State University, spoke on accessing resources and cultivating qualities for non-traditional student with disabilities. Thursday afternoon, two Account Executives for Apple Education demonstrated the accessibility of Apple products. Everyone in attendance walked away with a new appreciation of the accessibility of the iPad, in particular.

WINAHEAD conducted their business meeting early Friday morning. The conference closed with a showcase of new technology and adaptive equipment by Patti Neill, the statewide Program Coordinator for the Assistive Technology Partnership/Education. Paul Grossman will be the keynote speaker for our Fall conference on November 6-7 in Lincoln, Nebraska.
Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Michael Johnson, Chair

Private Colleges SIG
Gavin Steiger
One of the presentation tracks at the national conference focuses upon New Directions for the Small DS Office. This track may be very informative for the Private Colleges with small offices. The Private College SIG will be meeting at the conference this year on Wednesday, July 16 from 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. If you are unable to attend, we will also plan to meet one evening for dinner. We will provide more information about this as we approach the conference. We look forward to seeing you in Sacramento!

Disability Studies SIG
Susan Mann Dolce
Exciting updates from the Disability Studies Special Interest Group!
Please join us for our Disability Studies Special Interest Meeting Thursday from 12:45 - 1:45. to learn more about Disability Studies and what you can do on your campus to utilize this perspective as part of your work. For book and movie suggestions visit the Disability Studies Special Interest Section page at AHEAD.org, http://www.ahead.org/sigs/disability-studies

Here are updates from two Disability Studies SIG members:

Katheryne Staeger-Wilson, director of the Disability Resource center at Missouri State University announced that they were just approved to begin an Interdisciplinary Disability Studies minor. Katherine presented “Reframing Disability”, a faculty/staff development presentation providing examples of how faculty could incorporate disability when they teach about diversity and how disability intersects their field of study.

At the University at Buffalo a Disability and the Media event in October 2013, featuring disability media scholar Beth Haller, was a community wide event co-sponsored by the UB Center for Disability Studies and the Museum of Disability History. UB students who attended this event as part of a class with Susan Mann Dolce, Associate Director of Accessibility Resources at UB, created an “Awareness and ACCESS” social media campaign by creating a UB Accessible Facebook page and Twitter account (“like” UB Accessible on Facebook or follow UB Accessible on twitter). To learn more about this join us after the AHEAD annual awards luncheon on Friday, July 18th, for session 8.3, Student’s Access Campaign 2014: Print and Social Media Strategies for campus ACCESS.

The Universal Design Yoga Program at the University at Buffalo hosted a two day workshop with Lila Lolling, for community yoga teachers to learn how to design and teach yoga classes that are welcoming and fun for individuals who are deaf, HH, blind or low vision. To learn more about this attend session 1.14, Universal Design Yoga for Students who are deaf, HH, blind or low vision.
Food Allergy Research & Education
By Mike Spigler

It’s happened 20 times. Her whole body begins to itch and burn, and her lips and tongue swell. Soon after, her throat swells too, making it difficult to breath. Within minutes she begins to feel light headed. Left untreated, she’ll soon pass out.

This is how Lily’s anaphylactic allergic reactions happen when she eats the wrong thing. Twenty reactions for this 17-year-old high school senior may seem like a lot, but consider her extensive list of allergies (16 foods, including eggs, milk, fish, beef, wheat, tree nuts and soy). The truth is, no matter how vigilant, those with food allergies can still experience accidental exposure, especially if they aren’t given proper support.

One in 13 children now suffers from a potentially life-threatening food allergy, a number that increased 50 percent between 1997 and 2011 according to the Center for Disease Control & Prevention. And like Lily, those children are growing up and going to college.

Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE) launched its College Food Allergy Program in January to help colleges and students with food allergies safely navigate this process. The program will have five main components:

1. Comprehensive best practices guidelines for identifying students with food allergies and accommodating their needs via housing, dining, health, emergency and disability services.
2. Training for dining services staff via MenuTrinfo’s AllerTrainU course.
3. Free training for resident assistants and other non-dining staff on food allergy 101, how to recognize a reaction, and how to talk to and educate students about food allergies.
4. A toolkit for parents and students to help them navigate the college process. The toolkit will provide information from what questions to ask when considering a college to how to advocate for yourself and manage food allergies on campus.
5. Creation of social groups on campuses to help mentor incoming students and to help students advocate for one another both on and off-campus.

When Lily first stepped foot on her future college’s campus, she was in love with it. But was loving it enough? She also had to consider extra questions: Where is the nearest hospital? Can I get a single room with a kitchen? How can I manage attending social events where food is served? Will my teachers understand? And who will help me if I have an allergic reaction and pass out?

As disability services professionals, you are in the best position to help these students participate fully in their education. And you can start with just a few simple steps:

1. Include language about food allergies on your website so students know they can seek your help with accommodations.
2. When students with food allergies seek accommodations, take them seriously. Listen to their needs and concerns.
3. Work with the student to establish individual accommodations. Each student’s situation will be different and their needs may be too.

Going to college and being on their own for the first time is scary for students and their parents, but FARE believes that with proper education and preparedness, colleges can effectively accommodate students with food allergies. That means Lily and other students like her can choose their college based on the education they will receive and not based on their food allergies.

For more information on FARE’s College Food Allergy Program, please visit http://www.foodallergy.org/resources/colleges-universities  Mike Spigler is the vice president of education at FARE, the nation’s leading nonprofit dedicated to food allergy.
> **Farm-to-Fork Capital**

No major city in America is more centrally located amid such a diverse range of high-quality farms, ranches and vineyards. 70 percent of the region’s land is agricultural, forest or other open space. Additionally, the region contains 7,000 to 8,000 acres of boutique farms and provides numerous public sales platforms at more than 50 regional farmers markets, many of which are year-round fixtures. In September, a weeklong culinary festival will make its debut bringing together the regional restaurant and farming communities.

> **Old Sacramento Historic District**

28-acre historic riverfront district with more than 125 boutique shops, restaurants and attractions

> **California State Railroad Museum**

North America’s most popular railroad museum features 21 restored locomotives and railroad cars.

> **Crocker Art Museum**

A 125,000 sq. ft., $100 million expansion is the new jewel of Sacramento. The Crocker displays Californian, European and Asian works of art.

> **California State Capitol, Museum and Grounds**

The museum features changing exhibits and historical rooms that offer a view of California’s political past; the rest of the building acts as a living museum.

> **The California Museum**

The home of the California Hall of Fame is a cultural destination dedicated to telling the rich history of California and its unique influence on the world of ideas, art and culture.

> **Outdoor Recreation:**

23-mile American River Parkway is a biking/walking trail surrounded by natural protected habitats, scenic bridges, acres of parks, fishing spots, kayaking and tubing areas. White water rapids of every class are just minutes from Sacramento, and white water rafting companies ‘deposit’ you right into the parkway.

> **Northern California’s Other Wine Country**

The region is home to one of California’s oldest wine-producing areas. Over 200 wineries in the region and most offer free tastings and intimate access to the winemaking process and the winemakers. Visit sacramentowineguide.com

> **Urban Sacramento**

Cool without the pretention – that’s Downtown and Midtown Sacramento where the city’s main theaters, art galleries and cultural venues are found, plus boutique shops and entertainment venues.

> **Dining & Nightlife**

Surrounding farmers and growers keep Sacramento restaurants serving up the freshest ingredients via creative and unbelievable menus. After dinner, take a walk Downtown where you’ll find mermaids and mermen, wine bars, dancing and mechanical bulls. Seriously.

> **The Delta**

Popular boating and recreation area features thousands of miles of navigable waterways and is home to hundreds of species of birds, fish and other wildlife.

> **Gold Country**

Famous Hwy 49 lies only 45 minutes outside of Sacramento, taking you to picturesque Gold Rush-era towns and cities. Today, many celebrate their heritage of both gold and agriculture while showcasing their modern era, with wineries, shopping areas and restaurants serving local foods.

> **How to Get to Sacramento:**

**Car**
Highways 5, 99 and 80

**Plane**
Direct flights into Sacramento International Airport

**Amtrak**
Capital Corridor, San Joaquin, Coast Starlight, California Zephyr

**Boat**
San Francisco Bay up through the Delta

For More Information
Sacramento Convention & Visitors Bureau
1608 I St., Sacramento, CA 95814
800-292-2334
www.visitsacramento.com

Old Sacramento Visitors Center
1002 Second St., Sacramento, CA 95814
Open daily 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
916-442-7644

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