



Minnesota  
 Association for  
 Continuing Adult Education

MACAE Update: Current news about happenings in Adult Education  
 in Minnesota and beyond

# The Art and Science of Adult Learning Fall Conference November 13 and 14th, 2009

Conference Highlights  
 Look inside for Details

## Friday afternoon

Annual membership meeting (anyone can attend)  
 Keynote speaker Apostolos Georgopoulos  
 Breakout sessions with CEU credit.  
 Wine & cheese reception

## Saturday morning

Workshops with CEU credit  
 Luncheon  
 Awards  
 Recognition of New Members  
 Connection with Past Presidents

## Friday evening

Wine and Cheese Reception  
 Silent auction and book swap begin  
 Buffet supper  
 Special program  
 Poetry Workshop and  
 Spoken Word Showcase  
 Hosted by TruArtSpeaks and Quest for the  
 Voice youth poets  
 "Use your words to call the dreams of your  
 imagination into existence" -Saul Williams

[www.mnmacae.org](http://www.mnmacae.org)

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MACAE UPDATE  
 August 2009

Hubbs Center for Lifelong Learning  
 1030 University Avenue West  
 Saint Paul, MN 55104

# 2009 Award Nominations

## Minnesota Association for Continuing Adult Education

The MACAE awards are an important and inspiring events at the annual MACAE conference.

You are encouraged to look at the list of awards and nominate a colleague for one of the awards.

The awards are listed below. Go to the MACAE web site (<http://mnmacae.org/confer.html>) for more information about the awards.

The Minnesota Association for Continuing Adult Education is committed to advancing the mission and goals of adult education. Public recognition of outstanding individual educators and exemplary programs is an important responsibility. MACAE merit awards promote the highest standards for adult education, which are at the heart of research and practice in Minnesota.

Awards are based on merit and are not necessarily given every year. There may be more than one recipient in a category. Individuals do not have to be a member of MACAE to be nominated. Directors or participants in programs are encouraged to nominate their own programs.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, October 23, 2009.

### Individual Awards

Professional Service Award, Learner-Contributor Award, The Martha L. Stanley Memorial Award, The Harlan Copeland Award for Excellence in Programming, Lucille Fischer Award for Outstanding ABE Learner, Hovland Award

### Program Awards

Outstanding Adult Education Program Award, Outstanding Organizational Program Award

### Contribution to the Field Awards

William W. Metcalfe Research/Evaluation Award, Publication Award, Policy Award, Volunteer Award, Outside Contributor (s) Award

### The Missouri Valley Adult Education Association Award

To nominate a person, program, or organization by October 23 deadline, please complete the enclosed form and mail or e-mail to:

Bella Hanson

476 Etna St. #204

St. Paul, MN 55106

E-mail: [bellahanson@comcast.net](mailto:bellahanson@comcast.net)

Phone: (h) 651- 774-9995

### MACAE Vision Statement

MACAE is a diverse community of educators and learners that promotes lifelong education in Minnesota for the 21st century. MACAE provides opportunities for engagement and collaboration by providing experiences that inspire, empower, educate and transform.

### Board of Directors

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### Membership Information:

MACAE

Hubbs Center for Lifelong Learning  
1030 University Avenue West  
Saint Paul, MN 55104

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All article submissions should be forwarded to Ben Bryant: [benbryant@frontiernet.net](mailto:benbryant@frontiernet.net) by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue.

[www.mnmacae.org](http://www.mnmacae.org)

Conference Information, Upcoming Events,  
Awards, Archived Documents, Adult  
Education Job Postings  
[mnmacae@gmail.com](mailto:mnmacae@gmail.com)

# President's Column

## Meet MACAE's 2009 Keynote Speaker: Apostolos Georgopoulos

by Nancy Herther

In December 2005, the University of Minnesota Board of Regents awarded the highest level of recognition it has – the designation of Regents Professor – to Dr. Apostolos Georgopoulos, calling him “a visionary world-class scientist who brings an active imagination to bear on some of the most important puzzles in neuroscience.” He was a full professor of neuroscience, neurology and psychiatry in the University of Minnesota Medical School, and holds the American Legion Brain Sciences Chair. He is also the director of the Brain Sciences Center at the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center. Add to this his 2004 designation by the Regents as a McKnight Presidential Endowed Chair. A world-renowned neuroscientist, Georgopoulos was given the McKnight honor for his scientific contributions to both the university and his field.



That would be enough for a team of academics – but that isn't all. He's been elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and earlier this year received the very prestigious Neuronal Plasticity prize of La Fondation Ipsen, which was presented to him at the Société des Neurosciences Françaises meeting in Bordeaux, France. The awards committee noted: “These prizes are international in scope, awarded to scientists whose work is recognized as a major advance, and are conferred in such a way as to reward and draw attention to both the individual and the subject of the research.”

Impressive? You bet! But Professor Georgopoulos is also extremely approachable. Just listening to him explain what are really very complicated issues in clear terms and

with passion is an honor. MACAE Annual Conference attendees will have the opportunity to learn about current brain research and how it is redefining what we know about learning across the lifespan at our conference this November.

(<http://mnmacae.org/confer.html>)

Originally from Patras, Greece, Apostolos Georgopoulos attended medical school at the University of Athens and later received a doctorate in physiology there. He moved to the United States in 1976 to assume a position in the medical school at Johns Hopkins University, where he was promoted to full professor in 1986. In 1991 he moved to the University of Minnesota and the VA Medical Center as the American Legion Brain Sciences Chair. There he not only continues his important research, but works with patients with significant brain injuries and disease.

Dr. Georgopoulos sat down for an hour-long interview for MACAE in July. That full interview will appear in an upcoming edition of our Praxis journal. For now, we want to give you just an idea of our keynote speaker's work and the key importance that this will have for adult education and learning in the future.

### The Brain – The Final Frontier?

We are finally starting to learn more about the brain, “where about 100 billion neural cells interact with each other,” Georgopoulos explains. “It is the most complex organ of the body. Attempting to compute the number of their possible interactions results in numbers exceeding the number of atoms in the whole universe or the number of seconds that have elapsed since the Big Bang – the moment that the universe, as we know it came into existence.”

At the VA Medical Center, Apostolos Georgopoulos and his colleagues see returning soldiers with many types of injuries. Just as NBC newsman Bob Woodruff has been able to recover functioning after his tragic accident in Iraq, we are seeing more instances of miraculous recovery of functioning today due to the

**Continued next page**

**Continued from previous page** research that is taking place across the globe – as well as right here at our own University of Minnesota. One day, it is hoped that we can apply new techniques to not only diagnose injury and diseases such as Alzheimers, MS, chronic alcoholism and schizophrenia, but to help in diagnosing learning problems in individuals to provide individualized treatments to meet the specific needs of each individual. Does this seem like a dream?

“Brain sciences are at crossroads,” Georgopoulos explains. “For the first time ever, the structure and function of the brain can be assessed comprehensively, brain health and human wellbeing can be promoted and the susceptibility to brain disease at various stages of life can be assessed, modified and even forecasted.”

“The brain consists of more than 100 billion cells,” he notes. “Unlike any other organ of the body, brain cells interact extensively with each other every millisecond. This interaction is the basis for information processing, learning, memory and plasticity.”

What are some of Dr. Georgopoulos’ future directions? He would like to do longitudinal research – over time – to better understand how our brains develop, change and grow throughout the lifespan. He would like to study the interaction of brains as people communicate with each other one-on-one to better understand the brain in action in a dynamic environment. He would like to study groups of older people to better understand – not just information processing in the brain – but the development of wisdom and expertise.

Are there differences between “digital natives” (youngsters who grew up with technology) and the rest of us? Not in ability or capability, just experience – which can be taught at any age. And what about deterioration over the lifespan? “We appear to have plenty of brain power at any age – and with age we get expertise, we get wisdom. We need to gain a better understanding of this for the future.”

The brain – our noggin, belfry, noodle, skull, dome, grey matter, mind, control center – is key to learning. This year MACAE celebrates and explores this amazing and critical area of vital importance to every adult educator and learner!

Dr. Apostolos Georgopoulos has spoken to groups across the world and appeared often in the media – including three appearances on Kerry Miller’s MPR radio program. In November he will speak, for the first time, to and about adult learning and adult educators. Join us! This opportunity is too important to miss!

# College Scholarships Awarded

By Bella Hanson

Each year GED graduates and adult secondary students in ABE programs are eligible to apply for a scholarship to two different funds at The Saint Paul Foundation. One fund is the Minnesota Adult Literacy Campaign (MALC) Scholarship Fund which gives scholarships to students in any ABE program in Minnesota. The other is the Ronald M. Hubbs Scholarship Fund which gives scholarships to students at the Hubbs Center in St. Paul.

Three students received scholarships from the MALC Scholarship Fund:

**Scott Pike**, Duluth, will receive \$2000. Scott will attend either the U of M at Duluth or Lake Superior College and study biomedical engineering.

**Marguerite Williams**, St. Paul, will receive \$2000. Marguerite will attend Century College to be a certified paraprofessional in an educational setting working with children.

**Shannon Johnson**, St. Paul, will receive \$1000 from the MALC fund and \$500 from the Ronald M. Hubbs fund. Shannon plans to attend Century College to become a certified educational assistant in the Saint Paul Public Schools.

Five students received scholarships from the Ronald M. Hubbs Scholarship Fund:

**Shannon Johnson**, will receive \$500. (See above)

**Nu Nu Poe**, St. Paul, will receive \$1500. Nu Nu will attend St. Paul College to study to become a medical laboratory technician.

**Sakaria Sheikh**, St. Paul, will receive \$1500. Sakaria plans to attend Century College to study in the electrical or maintenance field.

**Moon Soe**, St. Paul will receive \$1500. Moon will attend Century College to become a math teacher.

**Shahlo Umarova**, St. Paul, will receive \$900. Shahlo will attend Normandale Community College to become a dental hygienist.

# Call for Presenters for Fall Conference

## The Art and Science of Adult Learning

### Friday & Saturday, November 13 & 14, 2009

The Minnesota Association of Continuing Adult Education (MACAE) invites you to submit proposals for our 34th Annual Conference to be held at St. Thomas University, St. Paul, Minnesota, November 13 and 14th, 2008. The conference will provide an opportunity for adult educators, practitioners, students and scholars to learn about each other's work, engage in discussions, and network. The theme for the conference is *The Art and Science of Adult Learning*.

As far back as Ancient Greece, scholars have tried to understand the enigma of the human brain and how we learn, think and reason. In the past thirty years, due to new technologies and research, many of our traditional beliefs about brain activity and human learning have been shown to be completely untrue. What is emerging is a whole new science and understanding of a brain that is constantly growing neurons and able to learn new skills at every age. Exactly what is science teaching us? What are the implications for adult education and learning?

This year's MACAE conference celebrates the many styles, forms, issues, people and processes of adult education as it is practiced and experienced throughout the life-span.

Presentations may focus on theory, empirical research, or experience in the field having to do with the changing nature of teaching adults and the best practices use in that endeavor. Presentations, with question/answer period, will be a total of 60-75 minutes. Presenters receive free

conference attendance (minus the luncheon and any other special events).

Potential presenters should submit their proposals to shore@csp.edu no later than August 15th. You will be notified no later than 5 days past the deadline if your presentation is chosen for the conference.

Please include the following information in your proposal:

Presenter name; Contact Information (institution, e-mail, telephone number); Title of presentation with an informative 150 word abstract on the subject of your presentation and how it supports the conference theme.

MACAE members come from diverse areas of adult education – adult basic education, business and industry, communications media, community education, community groups, cultural organizations, extension education, government agencies, health care institutions, human services agencies, libraries, literacy programs, private consultancies, public schools, religious institutions, student groups, universities and colleges, vocational schools, volunteer programs.

MACAE is affiliated with both the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association (MVAEA) ([www.mvaea.com](http://www.mvaea.com)) and the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE) ([www.aaace.net](http://www.aaace.net)).

# The Art and Science of Adult Learning 2009 Fall conference Details

## Friday afternoon

1:00 annual membership meeting (anyone can attend)

Major items: Passing new bylaws, introducing our new webpage and voting in new officers

1:30 Registration begins

2:00 – 3:30 Keynote speaker Apostolous Georgopoulos (See interview, page 3)

silent auction and book swap begin

3:30 – 4:00 Break with snacks

4:00 – 5:30 Breakout sessions with CEU credit

5:30 – 6:30 Wine and Cheese Reception

## Saturday morning

8:00 registration & coffee

Last chance for silent auction!

8:30 – 10:00 first workshops with CEUs

10:00 – 10:15 break with snacks

10:15 – 11:45 second workshops with CEUs

12:00 – 1:00 or 1:30 Catered buffet luncheon

Awards Presentation

New Member recognition

Connection with Past Presidents

## Friday evening

5:30 – 6:30 Wine and Cheese Reception

silent auction and book swap continue

6:30 – 7:30 Catered buffet supper

7:30 – 8:30 Special entertainment program

## Poetry – The Spoken Word has Never Been so Bold, so Expressive, so Compelling!

Today's finest young poets

Unencumbered by expectations

Unconvinced by Corporate America

Uncensored

Join us for a Poetry Workshop and Spoken Word Showcase

Hosted by

TruArtSpeaks ([www.myspace.com/TishJonesMusic](http://www.myspace.com/TishJonesMusic))

and

Quest for the Voice youth poets ([www.myspace.com/questforthevoice](http://www.myspace.com/questforthevoice))

“The purpose of the paper & pen is to resurrect the spirit within” - from a young poet at the 2009 Brave New Voices National Spoken Word event, July, 2009

[www.mnmacae.org/confer.html](http://www.mnmacae.org/confer.html)

Cost – \$50.00 each section

The Deal:

Sign Up for the Whole Conference for \$120 and Get  
A One-Year Membership as a Bonus!