



Spring 2012

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Monica Isbell; Alamance Community College

Greetings! I hope this message finds you doing well. I had a wonderful time at the Spring NCAHEAD conference at Wake Forest University. A huge thank you and job well done to Michael and his staff.

As I embark on the presidency, I remember my first NCAHEAD conference at East Carolina University. I was excited and energized to meet fellow colleagues and learn as much as possible. I have the same energy, excitement and drive to lead this organization. I have the opportunity to work with a fabulous executive board. I want to continue to support, grow and promote NCAHEAD statewide and nationally.

I am grateful and thank you for the opportunity to serve. I hope to see you at the fall conference at UNC-Pembroke.

Monica

SPRING 2012 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Tiffany Bailey; UNC-CH

Wake Forest University...Demon Deacon country...those crazy Screamin' Deacons. Traditionally, when I think of the Piedmont Triad I think mostly about textiles and tobacco. I have to admit I don't watch sports (GASP!), so team rivalries are never something I pay much attention to. However, now a Tarheel traveling to Demon Deacon country for our conference, I had a moment of pause. Immediately, I was glad I had not chosen to adorn Lola (my car) with Carolina magnet paraphernalia or even flags. hahahaha ☺ Instead I proudly displayed my, "I heart my mutt" magnet. I am sure this helped me to not get a parking ticket when I parked in the wrong area... Just kidding Michael!

Jokes aside, I can sum up the experience in one phrase, "Good people, good times, good times." The folks at Wake Forest University were EXCELLENT hosts. Don't they have amazing staff?! Friendly faces everywhere and people willing to help out. There's just an overall great vibe to campus.

What I love about conferences is exploring new places, socializing with colleagues and trying the local cuisine. There's no better time to "pick your colleague's brains" on the latest complex (never a clear-cut answer) problem at your University. The only downfall of drive-ins is that they are always too short. There's never enough time to meet new people and socialize with

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people you rarely get to see. Nevertheless, we always seem to make the best of the time we have.

This year's drive-in focused mostly on mental health and we were fortunate enough to have Barbara Blacklock, Program Coordinator for Disability Services at the University of Minnesota, as the keynote speaker. Her address was titled: "A Campus-wide Approach: Access for College Students with Mental Health Disabilities." Her insight was invaluable and the University of Minnesota has created wonderful programs, policies and procedures to support students with mental health disabilities. I encourage you to check out the Spring 2012 conference materials as soon as they are posted: <http://ahead.org/affiliates/north-carolina/events>.

I think we can all agree that students with mental health disabilities have some of the most complex challenges related to their ability to matriculate. Although, some of us probably feel we left the conference with more questions than what we came with (especially related to the new regulations), what we do know is we can rely on each other for support and guidance. Even though you may be in an office of one, you never operate in a silo. A group of colleagues is never more than an e-mail or phone call away and each conference brings the opportunity to expand that network.

Thank you Wake Forest University for your generous hospitality. I leave you with this...

**O' Here's to Wake Forest
A glass of the finest
Red ruby rhenish filled up to the brim
Their sons they are many
Unrivalled by any
Who's hearts overflowing we will sing a hymn
Rah, Rah, Wake Forest, Rah
Old Alma Mater sons are we
We'll herald the story and die for her glory
Old Gold and Black is ever waving high**

Go Deacs! (Don't tell anyone at Carolina I said this)!



The Gang's (Almost) All Here!



Business Now.....



Play Later!



Welcome Madame Prez!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. Lance Alexis, director of WCU's Office of Disability Services, has accepted one of seven invitations to serve for two years on the Southeastern Americans with Disabilities Act Center's newly organized Roundtable of Advisors for Postsecondary Students with Disabilities at Institutions of Higher Learning.

The center provides training, technical assistance and ADA-related support for people who have disabilities in a region encompassing Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

As a member of the advisory group, Lance will provide guidance and oversight for the center's proposed goals and activities related to increasing public awareness and understanding of the Americans with Disabilities Act and promoting voluntary compliance with the legislation. **Congratulations Lance!**

If you would like to share your good news with the NCAHEAD membership, please submit announcements to Angie Song at awsong@wcu.edu.

NCAHEAD FALL CONFERENCE

Mary Helen Walker; UNC-Pembroke

Mark your calendars now!! The NCAHEAD Fall conference will be hosted by UNCP on October 4th and October 5th at UNCP in Pembroke, NC. Pembroke is located in southeastern North Carolina. A block of hotel rooms have been reserved for October 3rd and October 4th. If you would like to help with the conference please contact mary.walker@uncp.edu or Monica Isbell, NCAHEAD President.

We are currently asking for any topics members would like to have presented. Please email Mary Helen Walker with any requests. The staff in DSS at UNCP is very excited to finally have the local resources to host this conference. We are a very small, rural town whose original founders were the Lumbee Tribe. UNCP and Pembroke are still represented by the tribe. We are the only school in the Southeast to offer an American Indians Studies degree. Traditions and culture of the Lumbee Indians is prominent throughout the campus and town.

Please make sure you attend the Fall conference if at all possible. As everyone has always said about any of NCAHEAD's conferences, the camaraderie and fellowship of like-minded people who advocate for and work with students with disabilities are refreshing and a boost to understanding why we do what we do. We look forward to seeing you in October. Look for emails about it on the listserv beginning this summer.

A New Member's Perspective

Melissa Senior; UNC-CH

As Jim Kessler and I drove to Wake Forest University for the Spring 2012 NCAHEAD conference, I was a nervous wreck. I had never been to a conference nor had I really talked to anyone outside our office about disability services. Jim reassured me that everything would be just fine but that only slightly calmed my nerves. When we arrived at Wake Forest University the first thing I noticed was how absolutely beautiful the campus was. I felt at home. Immediately I began meeting other members and it did not take me long to realize how friendly everyone was. During registration the atmosphere was inviting. There was some talk of business but mainly I felt like I was at a family reunion.

As a new member, I was worried that I would have nothing to contribute to occurring conversations. But others made it easy by always including me or asking my opinion. One of my favorite questions came from Lance Alexis. He asked, "What in your life brought you to disability services?" It was a question I never really thought about before. As I relayed to him my life course which brought me to where I am today I realized that I was in the right place with the right people.

After the refreshments the rest of the day went smoothly for me. I felt that I was a contributing member whose opinion or questions were significant. What a great feeling to have as a new member! I really enjoyed and learned a lot from Barbara Blacklock's presentation on a campus wide approach for students with mental health disabilities. The breakout sessions were also great. I went to Diane Majewski's presentation on the "8 is Great Time Management Plan." The presentations were all very beneficial and really strengthened my growing knowledge of disability services. But I will have to say my favorite part of the conference was lunch time. Not only because the food was absolutely delicious but because I learned the most from just talking to those around me. Also, it was a

treat to watch Jim Kessler win the Pat Bailey Award. I am lucky enough to see every day how amazing Jim is as a director at UNC-CH and it was great to see him recognized for all of his hard work and dedication.

I would like to thank Michael Shuman for putting on such a wonderful conference at Wake Forest, Jim Kessler and Tiffany Bailey for taking me under their wings and teaching me everything they know, and each and every member of NCAHEAD. As a new member I not only felt welcomed but also inspired. Each of you encouraged and motivated me to continue on my path to becoming a disability service officer.

AND THE WINNERS ARE....



Pat Bailey Award recipient Jim Kessler, NCAHEAD Awards Committee Chair Kesha Lee and past President Lance Alexis.



Nance Longworth accepted the Laura Thomas Award on behalf of recipient John Crosland, Jr.

MEMBER NEWS

Angie Song recently accepted a position on the advisory board for Access Text Network (ATN). ATN provides alternate format postsecondary textbooks at little or no cost. For more information, visit www.accesstext.org or contact membership@accesstext.org.

If you would like to check out presentation materials from NC AHEAD past conferences please visit our website link at: <http://www.wcu.edu/28716.asp>

To view bylaws and other information about NCAHEAD, please visit us at: <http://www.ahead.org/affiliates/north-carolina>. Please send any suggested changes or additions to Monica Isbell (Monica.Isbell@alamancecc.edu)

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- **Educational Outreach & Representation Efforts**

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- **Awards & Scholarships**

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- **Publications**

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