



About the  
newsletter....

The Newsletter is one way to help AaEA members: *Learn, Participate, Share, Network and Evaluate.*

Each issue contains an article to help us: *Learn and Evaluate by translating methodology into practice Participate by featuring recent or upcoming AaEA events Share and Network by highlighting upcoming professional development and other opportunities..*

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## News from AaEA's President

Dear AaEA Members, On behalf of our Council and Committee members, I am happy to report that our Affiliate has held two robust opportunities for training and development this quarter. We held two successful sessions of our four part 'New Evaluator' series: the first on the "CDC Framework for Program Evaluation" presented by Dr. Mark Rivera; and the second on "Describing Your Program and Choosing Your Evaluation Focus" led by Menyuan Smith and Renee King. Both sessions enabled new evaluators to get hands on training in a small group environment, and gain access to useful resources. Our third Quarterly event was resched-

uled, please stay tuned for a new announcement regarding this.

I would like to invite each of our members to join one of our many committees based on your interest and availability. This is a rewarding opportunity to serve your fellow evaluators, and gain from the interactions with them, both professionally and socially. Details about our committees are provided on Page 2. Please use the contact email to let us know of your interest and we would be happy to welcome you and orient you to the work of the committees.

Our affiliate will have a presence at the upcoming

AaEA conference in Orlando, FL from November 9 – 14, 2009. Please stop by our table and meet our representative. Please also pass the word about the affiliate to evaluators in the area who are not yet members.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the remaining events of the year, and to partnering with you to enhance the evaluation practice in the Atlanta area through our affiliate.

Sincerely,  
Bina Jayapaul-Philip  
President, AaEA

### Program Evaluator:

### US News and World Report's Best Kept Secret Careers

US News and World Report published it's list of the 11 best-kept-secret careers. The article highlighted "these hidden gems" based on job outlook, average job satisfaction, difficulty of the required training, prestige, and pay.

ability to immerse yourself in different programs, the good feeling you get from helping programs become better, and the ability to use a combination of techniques such as observation, interviewing, questionnaires, presentation skills and statistics.

The article sited the upsides of being a program evaluator, including: the

For the complete article go to: <http://bit.ly/lbccw>



**Opportunities:****Call for AaEA Volunteers**

The Atlanta Area Evaluation Association is actively seeking volunteers to assist in the work of its various committees. If you are interested and available, please communicate with the contacts noted below to explore how you might get more involved in the work of AaEA!

**New Evaluator Committee**

This group organizes events for students and others new to the field of evaluation to provide basic training in evaluation and explore career tracks.

Contact: Monique Hart  
(mchart@hotmail.com)

**Professional Development**

This group organizes the Association's quarterly training and educational events.

Contact: Kate Julian  
([kate@evaluationgroup.com](mailto:kate@evaluationgroup.com))  
& Maureen Wilce  
([muw9@cdc.gov](mailto:muw9@cdc.gov))

**Communications**

This group currently focuses on development of the AaEA's quarterly newsletter. Volunteers are actively being sought to assist with the web site and listserv.

## AaEA Members Share Wisdom to Increase Cultural Sensitivity

On July 16th, 14 AaEA members joined Kate Julian and Maureen Wilce (co-chairs for the Professional Development Committee) to discuss cultural sensitivity in evaluation. Two small groups were formed. Each group shared ideas about how the values, assumptions, and experiences of evaluators influence their work with different cultures; how cultural differences affect the design and implementation of an evaluation; and how data collection methods can be adapted for different cultural contexts.

The evaluations from the session showed that participants plan to use their learning in a variety of ways including: 1) acknowledging the

cultural limitations of the evaluation team; 2) planning well for focus groups with well-structured facilitator guides; 3) involving minority/national groups in the development of evaluation questions; and 4) improving listening skills. Several participants also noted the importance of meeting and sharing with other

evaluators. To this end, look for more professional development sessions in the fall, and please contact Kate or Maureen if you are interested in joining the committee.

Kate Julian  
([kate@evaluationgroup.com](mailto:kate@evaluationgroup.com));  
Maureen Wilce ([muw9@cdc.gov](mailto:muw9@cdc.gov))



## AaEA New Evaluators Program

Each year, the Atlanta Area Evaluation Association's New Evaluators Committee holds a series of trainings for students and professionals new to the field of evaluation. This year's sessions began on August 19, 2009 with Dr. Mark Rivera's interactive presentation on the CDC Framework for Program Evaluation. Dr. Rivera's session provided participants with an overview of the six steps involved in conducting an evaluation and the ways to engage stakeholders. During the session, participants had the opportunity to openly share and

discuss their evaluation experiences as it related to the training. In addition, Dr. Rivera answered questions and provided participants with a host of valuable resources for new evaluators.

On September 16, 2009, Menyuan Smith and Renee King presented the second session on Describing Your Program and Choosing Your Evaluation Focus. Participants engaged in hands-on activities and received supplemental handouts and materials

illustrating ways to develop an effective program description.

An upcoming session will be held on October 21, 2009 at the Girl Scout Building from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Presenters Jamila Hankins and Shaun Johnson will present on the topic of Data Collection Methods. The final session will conclude on November 18, 2009 with a presentation from Sarah O'Leary and Maureen Wilce on the topic of Utilizing Evaluation Findings and Justifying Conclusions.

### EVENT POSTPONED

#### Managing Program Evaluation: Steps Towards Practical Assessment of Expertise

Don Compton and Michael Schooley

September 24th, 2009

4:00 pm-5:30 pm

### EVENT POSTPONED



## Atlanta Area Evaluation Association

Visit us on the web!!!

<http://evalatlanta.org>

Email: [info@evalatl.org](mailto:info@evalatl.org)

### Newsletter Contributors:

*Bina Jayapaul-Philip, President*

*Kate Julian, Professional Development Committee*

*Monique Hart, New Evaluator Committee*

*Mark Rivera, Past-President*

*Karen Kun, Communications Committee*

*Dana Rickman, Communications Committee*

*Maureen Wilce, Professional Development*

*Committee*

The Atlanta-area Evaluation Association (AaEA) was formed in 2000 to support the broad and diverse group of evaluators in our area. Our mission is to:

- Promote the science and practice of evaluation in both the public and private sectors.
- Improve the quality of evaluation by promoting professional evaluation practices and stimulating new evaluation ideas and opportunities.
- Enhance the professional life of evaluators by providing networking opportunities and providing a forum for cross-fertilization of ideas.
- Add credibility and visibility to the evaluation field by bringing students into the field and mentoring their development.

## Resources — International Evaluation

For our regularly appearing “Resources” column, this issue of the AaEA newsletter focuses on providing information about a sample of organizations, web sites, etc. related to the area of international evaluation.

### International Development Evaluation Association

[http://www.ideas-int.org/home/index.cfm?](http://www.ideas-int.org/home/index.cfm?navID=1&itemID=1&CFID=258214&CF)

[navID=1&itemID=1&CFID=258214&CF](http://www.ideas-int.org/home/index.cfm?navID=1&itemID=1&CFID=258214&CF)

[TOKEN=65248882](http://www.ideas-int.org/home/index.cfm?navID=1&itemID=1&CFID=258214&CF)  
IDEAS' mission is 'to advance and extend the practice of development evaluation by refining methods, strengthening capacity and expanding ownership', with a particular focus on developing and transitional economies.

IDEAS focuses on three major themes:

- Enhancing Conceptual Thinking in Development Evaluation
- Governance and Accountability for Development
- Strengthening Development Evaluation Practice

### International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)

<http://www.3ieimpact.org/>

3ie seeks to improve the lives of poor people in low- and middle-income countries by providing, and summarizing, evidence of what works, when, why and for how much.

### International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation

<http://ioce.net/index.shtml>

IOCE is a loose alliance of regional and national evaluation organizations (associations, societies and networks) from around the world that collaborate to: build evaluation leadership and capacity in developing countries; foster the cross-fertilization of evaluation theory and practice around the world; address international challenges in evaluation; and assist the evaluation profession to take a more global approach to contributing to the identification and solution of world problems.

### MEASURE Evaluation

<http://www.cpc.unc.edu/measure/>

MEASURE Evaluation provides technical leadership through collaboration at local,

national, and global levels to build the sustainable capacity of individuals and organizations to identify data needs, collect and analyze technically sound data, and use that data for health decision-making.

### Network of Networks for Impact Evaluation (NONIE)

<http://www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/>

NONIE is a Network of Networks for Impact Evaluation comprised of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) Evaluation Network, the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG), and the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) - a network drawn from the regional evaluation associations.