



International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame

Newsletter Fall 2025 (3/2025)

INSIDE

Executive
Director's
Welcome Note

Board Chair's
Welcome

Tribute to Prof.
James Pappas

Forthcoming
Conferences

Support the Hall
of Fame



A Note from the Editor

Dear members of the Hall of Fame,

This Fall issue of the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame newsletter is dedicated to the memory of the late Professor James Pappas, whose leadership and vision shaped the Hall for many decades. Drawing from a wide collection of photos, quotes, and memories, this special edition offers a heartfelt celebration of his enduring legacy. While the focus is on remembrance, it also connects with the future—reflecting Dr. Pappas's lifelong belief in the transformative power of adult learning, including information about upcoming events that continue his commitment to advancing the field. Given the special nature of this issue, some regular updates and announcements have been held for the next edition, where we will continue to share news and achievements from our community.

Warm regards,

George Koulaouzides
Newsletter Editor

Executive Director's Welcome Note

**Dear Members of the Hall, Colleagues, and Friends,**

As we approach our **29th year**, I find myself reflecting deeply on the passage of time—on the leaders who shaped our journey, the milestones that have defined our progress, and the future that still lies ahead for the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame.

This year's upcoming Induction Ceremony in Norman, Oklahoma, carries profound emotional weight. Norman is not only our birthplace—it is a symbolic home. It was there, in 1996, that **Dr. Thurman White**, a visionary in adult and continuing education, laid the foundation for this Hall of Fame. Dr. White believed in honoring those who dedicated their lives to expanding knowledge, breaking barriers, and making education accessible for all. He understood that recognition was more than an accolade—it was a way to document the invisible footprints left by those who changed lives and communities through lifelong learning.

That vision endures.

And yet, with the passing of **Dr. James Pappas**, we are reminded that time is both fleeting and sacred. Jim was a beloved colleague, a guiding light, and a tireless champion of this Hall. His leadership, intellect, and warmth left a mark not only on this organization but on the hearts of so many around the world. Messages of sympathy, memory, and admiration have come in from virtually every continent—each one is a testament to his global reach and enduring spirit.

As we prepare to gather in Norman this November, we do so not only to induct the newest members of the Hall, but to reflect on the broader arc of time—on what it means to build something that lasts. The Sands of Time move unceasingly, but they do not erase. They reveal. They reveal the paths of those who walked before us, and they hold space for those yet to come.

This Hall of Fame is our collective legacy. It is our promise that contributions to adult and continuing education—no matter the era, no matter the nation—will be remembered, celebrated, and honored for generations. We stand on the shoulders of visionaries like **Dr. White** and **Dr. Pappas**, and we continue their work not just through ceremony, but through the stories we tell, the programs we shape, and the values we uphold.

Please join us in Norman this fall as we honor new inductees whose names will be added to our global tapestry—whose impact, too, will be recorded in the Sands of Time.

I leave you with these words, written in honor of this moment and Dr. Pappas.

"Every life leaves a footprint in the sand of time, but the deepest and most lasting impressions are made by those who live with purpose and passion." – Unknown

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Belinda Biscoe". The script is elegant and cursive.

Belinda Biscoe
Executive Director

Board Chair's Welcome



Those of us in the Northern Hemisphere are experiencing the pleasures of cooler temperatures, fewer wildfires, and autumn's changing colors. The transitions of seasons is also a time to reflect again on the cycle of life. The death of the Hall's founding Executive Director, **James (Jim) Pappas**, in early August was a reminder that pioneering, values-driven leaders are with us for only relatively short periods and that we should fully appreciate—and continue to support—their unique legacies. Elsewhere in this issue are remembrances of Jim submitted by Hall members that I hope you will read with appreciation.

The Induction of the Class of 2025 is fast approaching. Belinda Biscoe (Class of 2018), Executive Director, and the home office staff in Norman have been busy planning for our "hybrid" induction in which inductees were given the choice of attending in-person or being inducted virtually. I was reminded by Roger Hiemstra (Class of 2000) that the Hall's first hybrid induction was actually in 2002 when John Ohliger was inducted via a television hookup. This year, both the inductee symposium and formal induction ceremony will be accessible online. More details on how to view the proceedings will be provided. You can find the program on the Hall's website at [this link](#).

In Board news, we have received a very comprehensive report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Website Refresh, chaired by Larry Martin (Class of 2015). Their report contains a thorough analysis of the current website along with short- and long-term recommendations for improving its design, content and functionality. The Communication Committee—chaired by Simone Conceição (Class of 2018)—is reviewing the recommendations and will be presenting the Board with a specific action plan to implement as many changes as possible for the 2026 nominations cycle.

The most recent strategic plan for the Hall covered the period 2018-2022. Many of the priority goals identified in that plan were achieved, but several major items were not...partly attributable to pandemic disruptions. The Board will be forming a new Strategic Plan Renewal Committee to undertake a thorough review of how far we have come, how the environment has changed, and what our strategic priorities should be for the period 2026-2030. We will be seeking input from all Hall members to help shape the new plan.

We continue to encourage members to view the Hall's Leadership Perspectives Blog and to participate in the conversations there by responding to the posts of others or submitting a Blog post of their own. See the tips for preparing Blog posts elsewhere in this issue. Here is [a link](#) to the Blog where you can view posts and click on the "Follow" button to become a regular follower. We are always interested in exploring possible collaborations with other organizations who share some of the Hall's values. These might take the form of hosting an induction as part of an annual conference, helping to spread the word about the Hall's existence and the nomination process, or just sharing news via our respective newsletters, websites and social media channels. If you are a member of another organization that you think we could or should be collaborating with, please let me know at tom.sork@ubc.ca.

We hope to see some of you in Norman soon and others who will be participating virtually in the induction activities. Following the 2025 induction, the Board will be discussing future inductions and how their format can best be aligned with the Hall's strategic priorities.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Sork', written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas J. (Tom) Sork, Chair
IACE Hall of Fame Board of Directors

Tribute to Prof. James Pappas (June 30, 1939 - August 2, 2025)



The Communications Committee and the Board of Directors of the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame decided to honor in this issue of the newsletter the memory of our late colleague, Prof. **James Pappas**, whose dedication, passion, and spirit made a lasting impact on all who knew him.

We are profoundly grateful to everyone who shared personal reflections, selected condolences quotes, memories, and stories, helping us celebrate a life devoted to adult and continuing education. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Nina Barbee and Mrs. Shannon Johansen, for kindly providing photographs and a carefully curated collection of quotes, which bring this tribute to life and allow us to remember not only his professional contribution but also the warmth and kindness he shared with so many of us. Many thanks also to Ms. Darlynn D. Dietrich for her editing remarks.

Reflections

JAMES PAPPAS - BORN TO BE A FRIEND FOREVER

By Prof. univ. Emeritus dr. Laurențiu Șoitu (Class of 2008)

Rarely does the first message one receives inspire the desire to seek out its author – not for personal gain, but to experience the depth and distinctiveness of his words.

Among the many important, beautiful, and inspiring messages I have received, those of **James Pappas** captivated me from the very beginning. Simple, clear, warm, and humane, they conveyed his understanding and support of my initiative. I sought his agreement to organize, in **Iași**, an **Induction Ceremony** of the *International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame* (IACEHOF), headquartered at the University of Oklahoma, USA. In 2008, I proposed holding the event in 2010. He requested time to deliberate and to consult his colleagues.

To lend further credibility to the initiative, in 2010 he sent three members of the IACEHOF Board to attend the 3rd Adult Education Conference. He explained: "If all three confirm that the conditions here are comparable to those at other leading centers worldwide, then the Induction will take place at the next Conference in four years."

Everything unfolded as planned. Thus, in **Iași**, during an exceptional ceremony, **Spiru Haret (posthumously)** and ten other distinguished personalities from all continents were inducted as the **IACEHOF Class of 2014**.

This story underscores the insight of **James Pappas**, who, as Executive Director, understood that no one should be inducted into the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame without recognizing the most prominent figures from their own country. I admired him profoundly and valued him consistently for this shared conviction: that education achieves true depth only when guided by unity and continuity. His deeds were remarkable, but his soul – capable of resonating with the deepest needs of people everywhere – was equally admirable. Together, they defined the character of an exceptional educator.

In 2014, he visited Romania. He explored the country comprehensively and understood it in both its present reality and historical depth. At the **University of Bucharest**, he was awarded the title of **Doctor Honoris Causa**. In **Iași**, the **Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca** presented him with a special volume

in English, containing the laws and regulations developed by Haret. He also presided over the ceremony welcoming new members into the IACEHOF – the *Induction*, as it is formally called – in the hometown of Romania's great educational reformer, active from 1897 to 1910.

Dear Jim, our last correspondence took place on March 30, 2024, in which I encouraged the continuation of our dialogue. I sincerely believed that a new valve for your heart would sustain you for many more decades. If that time was brief, it was only because you gave the world every day what others accomplish over many years.

I will not enumerate your career accomplishments – they are far too extensive. Those who know your work will understand; those who wish to learn can seek it out. We – the members of IACEHOF, the thousands of students and colleagues, the scholarship recipients you supported personally, and the universities worldwide connected through your initiatives – all of us who know your contributions and the countless ideas you shared across the globe, mourn your passing. Yet we are confident that your work and example will continue to inspire, and that the model of your life will endure across generations.

Jim, we thank you

To us in Romania, through your title from Bucharest, you are our colleague. You belong to universities and schools across the world – and you always will.

You will remain our friend forever.

JAMES PAPPAS INFINITE PASSION FOR ADULT EDUCATION

By Prof. Vladimir GUȚU, Habilitated Ph.D., (Class of 2016)

Greatness is seen from a distance

From the Republic of Moldova, I come with a message of pride and gratitude for having known **James Pappas**. For me, he was proof of an infinite passion for adult education all over the world. This was confirmed by our brief meetings at various international conferences dedicated to the issues of adult learning and education.

We remember the conference "Education for Values. Continuity and Context" organized in Iași, Romania and Chișinău, Republic of Moldova, 2018, and the conference "Education for Peace and Sustainable Development" organized on November 9-11, 2023 in Chișinău, with the participation of several universities from Romania and the International Adult and CE Hall of Fame. I was impressed by the optimism and confidence in the future of adult education, the critical messages and a great openness to the future, promoted by James Pappas.

For me, the most important and emotional day of my life was the day when I participated in the Symposium and Induction Ceremony of the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame, November, 14-16, 2016 in Orlando, Florida, USA.

It should be noted that the policies promoted by James Pappas as the Head of CE Hall of Fame generated an increased interest in adult education in the Republic of Moldova: (a) In 2018, the Conference "Education for Values. Continuity and Context"; (b) In 2023, the Conference "Education for Peace and Sustainable Development"; (c) The Faculty of the Third Age Adult Education was established within the Moldova State University; (d) The DVV Moldova has been successfully operating in the Republic of Moldova for 15 years; (e) In 2023, the first monograph "Adult Pedagogy" (Andragogy) was published, written by Vladimir Guțu - a work intended for trainers, teachers, students, and all those interested in adult education.

Discreetness, modesty and honesty, perseverance and tenacity are just some of the qualities that James Pappas has accustomed us to. The remarkable activity carried out with passion for many years, the career-life balance, the impeccable professional behavior; **James Pappas will remain a true creator of opportunities of adult education.**

Selected Condolences and Memories

Oh, my goodness! I am so sorry to get such news. My deepest condolences to his family and all who knew him and worked with him. To his former colleagues and staff, I understand how difficult a time this is for you.

I hold you up in prayer.

May you find comfort in the fond memories you share with Dr. Pappas as colleague and friend. I am deeply sorry for your loss.

Best,

Mary V. Alfred, Ph.D. (Class of 2016)



His contributions to the Hall of Fame should be remembered and honored in any way we can. He worked hard to sustain and develop this organization. And I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve on the board and work with him.

My sympathies are with his family and you Belinda and the rest of the University of Oklahoma staff, who worked so closely with him.

Thank you for letting us know.

Tonette S. Rocco, Ph.D. (Class of 2016)



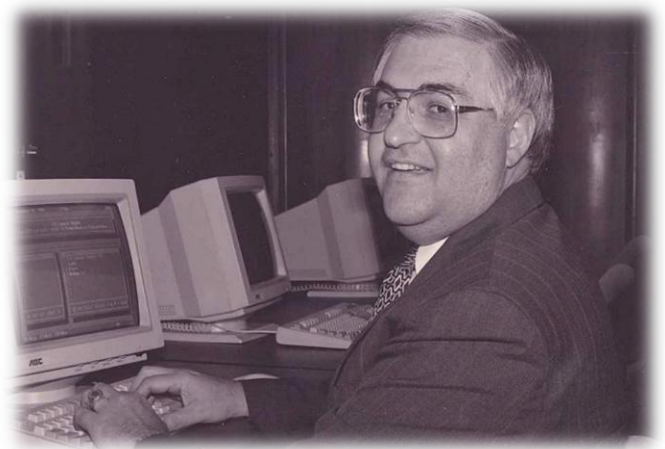
I am so sorry to hear this news. Jim was an inspiration for our profession, OU, and the many peers he mentored and served over the years.

I remember a very memorable lunch I had with Jim and his close colleague and friend Joseph Ray many years ago. My sincere condolences and prayers to his immediate family and of course his OU family.

I hope you are well and perhaps we can visit this coming year.

Warm regards,

Dr. Don Olcott, Jr. (Class of 2024)



It is deeply saddening to hear the news about the passing of Dr. Pappas. All those connected with the Hall of Fame know how significantly he contributed to this organization. His dedication, vision, and warmth touched many lives and left a lasting legacy.

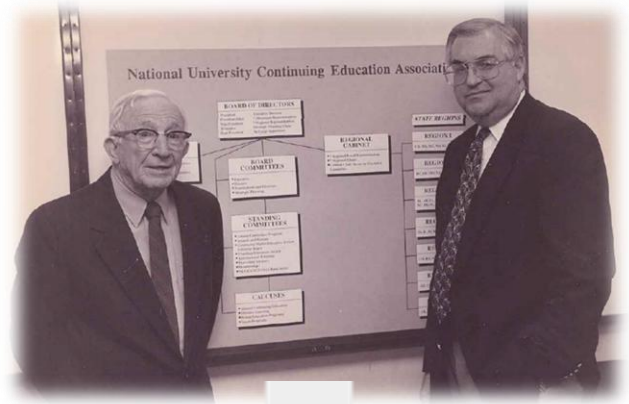
Please convey my sincere condolences to Peggy and the entire Pappas family during this time of grief.

With deepest sympathy,
Prof. Vandana Chakrabarti, Ph.D. (Class of 2014)



It is with sad memories that I received your information regarding the passing of Dr. Pappas. I will miss him so very much. He and I journeyed together through adult/continuing education for over 30 years.

He is now resting in eternal peace.
Dr. Gary Allen Eyre (Class of 2011)



I felt a "special bond" with Jim as I know many of us did. For me - it always came with a phone call from Jim. "Janet, do you have a minute?"

He had a way of reaching out to hook many of us back in to do something for the HOF that he knew was necessary to continue the network.

He even strengthened the Board of Directors as he became more ill - supporting "old and new" to forge a future path. He was a great leader, and he will be missed -- he had a rare gift, I think, to see what was coming and to know that international AE (adult education) was going to be required.

May his soul Rest in Peace
Dr. Janet K. Poley (Class of 2002)





Greetings from Oxford, and warm thanks for your sad message.

I am very sorry indeed to hear of the passing of dear Jim, a man for whom I had great admiration and affection. He was a great ambassador for lifelong learning, and, of course, for the University of Oklahoma. I extend my condolences to you as his close colleagues, and to his wife and family.

Jim was a great and lovely man, whose company was always a pleasure, and whose friendship was always a privilege.

I used to look forward to seeing him at professional conferences, including the meetings of Kellogg Centre Directors. (The Continuing Education Department, of which I was director for 20 years, was welcomed into what had previously been a US-only group, and we greatly enjoyed their fellowship and learned a lot from them. Your department head in Norman when I first made contact was Bill Maehl. We had long working associations with the University of Oklahoma, including Oxford-based programs in professional librarianship and in the humanities. My visits to Norman have left me with many happy memories, the majority of them made all the happier by Jim's benign and impressive presence.

He was also, of course, a stalwart in keeping IACEHOF prominent in our professional world – another reason why I will always be indebted to him.

I value greatly my association with Oklahoma, and though I am long retired from Oxford University I will always be proud of that association.

Thank you so much for writing – my thoughts are with you all on the loss of a great leader and great colleague and friend.

Ever,

Dr. Geoffrey Thomas (Class of 2002)

Forthcoming Conferences



We invite you to join us for the **XVI Biennial International Transformative Learning Conference (ITLC)** to be held at **North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina, USA, from October 21-23, 2026**

Transformative learning (TL) is an area of research and theory that addresses the potential of learning for profound personal and social change. As the most researched theory of adult learning for over 40 years, there is an active community of scholars, educators, counselors, coaches, and other learning professionals exploring and investigating the many different dimensions of TL. The ITLC brings these people together to share research, theory, and practices.

The theme of this year's conference centers on the transformative power of learning to address the collective challenges of our time—both locally and globally.

Grounded in the concept of co-creation, this focus highlights the necessity of collaborative, creative, and relational approaches to address complex questions. Through this lens, the conference emphasizes learning as a personal and communal act. We invite participants to explore how transformative learning can catalyze both large-scale and small-scale transformations necessary to navigate today's interconnected challenges.

Proposal Submission Deadline: December 15, 2025

Virtual Conference, November 5-6, 2026, Online

In the spirit of accessibility, we recognize that not everyone will be able to travel to the in-person, main event. In response to feedback from our community, we are committed to offering a virtual option for the conference on **November 5-6, 2026**. This virtual conference will include paper presentations, just as the main conference, as well as a space for reflection, deepened discussion, and expanded dialogue for all conference participants. Keynote addresses given at the main conference will be recorded and shown at the virtual conference, with discussion sessions with the speakers directly thereafter.

For more information visit: <https://itlc2026.intertla.org/>



IACEHoF 2025 Induction Ceremony
November 8, 2025
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
Norman, Oklahoma

Support the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame

Gift(s) to the Hall of Fame

- ☐ I wish my gift to be directed to the Hall of Fame Operating Account **#0032117**
- ☐ I wish my gift to be directed to the Hall of Fame Endowment Account **#0041788**
- ☐ I wish my gift to be split between the Hall of Fame Operating and Endowment Accounts
- ☐ I wish to purchase a brass name plate for my mentor on the **Mentor Plaque** for \$200 which will hang in the Hall of Fame.

Mentor's name/address: _____

Inscription (max. 30 characters including spaces): _____

Memorial Gifts

☐ I wish to purchase a brass name plate in memory of: _____
for \$200 on the **Memorial Plaque** which will hang in the Hall of Fame. Inscription (max. 30 characters including spaces): _____

- ☐ I wish to purchase a brass name plate for the **Ed Boone Memorial Plaque** for \$200 which will hang in the Hall of Fame. Inscription (max. 30 characters including spaces): _____

- ☐ I wish to purchase space on a larger plate for \$200 that will also list other donors in memory of: _____

Enclosed is/are my tax-deductible gift(s) to the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Gift amount(s): _____

Check #: _____

Please make checks payable to: The University of Oklahoma Foundation,
Attn: International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame

Paying by Credit Card: "Please go to this site <https://halloffame.outreach.ou.edu/gifts-and-contributions/> to make a secure credit card gift." If you prefer to call in your donation directly to the Foundation, please call 405-321-1174 between 8:00a.m.- 5:00p.m. (CST) M-F.

To ensure proper identification of donations, be sure to advise Shannon Johansen at 405-325-6362, or by email to shannonjohansen@ou.edu if you are making a donation directly to the OU Foundation.

Gifts of Cash Via Wire Transfer Information: Please call Shannon Johansen at 405-325-6362

Please mail gifts to:

International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame
c/o University Outreach
Attn: Shannon Johansen
The University of Oklahoma
1700 Asp Avenue, Room 111
Norman, Oklahoma 73072-6400

