Message from the Chair
Excited for Houston 2018!

I am so excited for the 2018 Conference in Houston! This is always my favorite time of year. I find it to be a great time to recharge with amazing colleagues and partners in higher education. ACPA has been that professional home for me, and I hope you feel the same.

Last year, at the conference in Columbus, the Commission met to set goals for the coming year. We wanted to increase communication within the commission, become an active group that networks, shares, and celebrates professional development ideas. We wanted to create an online presence and to communicate on important issues in higher education as it relates to our constituents. I am happy to say that over the past year I feel we have been able to begin moving toward these goals.

This year we were able to celebrate our distinguished colleagues by holding elections for the first time since 2014. We also created a quarterly newsletter to communicate with our members. The directorate developed a statement of support for athletes with regard to protests at sporting events. We also started an online social media spotlight to highlight our talented members, institutions, programs, and facilities. One of the commission’s accomplishments in the last year is that we have increased our membership by 50%!

This is just the beginning. We are excited to build upon this momentum and continue to grow CRA. We are excited to see interest and excitement surrounding our group, and we look forward to continuing to build on this progress!

We are excited to continue moving forward and would love to see you get involved. Whether that is presenting at the conference or hosting a webinar, helping us review program submissions, or even think about becoming a member of our directorate team. We would love to have you! You do not need to be a professional in our fields to do these things. You just need to have an interest in the work.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know. Here is to 2018/2019!
HOUSTON: 2018 Conference Outlook
Commission for Recreation & Athletics

Our commission is excited to be offering several educational sessions over the ACPA Annual Conference week in Houston this year. Over the course of the convention, we hope to provide opportunities for our commission to gather together, present information and grow in size!

In addition, to providing educational opportunities we will be hosting a reception for commission in order to meet and greet those we have the pleasure to work with but often do not have the pleasure of meeting on a regular basis.

Check out all the opportunities on the schedule below to be active and consider in your plan while attending this year’s annual conference.

CRA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, March 11th

CRA Closed Business Meeting
9am –12pm Hilton America-Houston RM 343 A

CELBACPA
4:30p—5:30p GRB Convention Center Concourse C

Monday, March 12th

Beyond the Jersey: Critiquing Our Campus Engagement with Black Athletes (Educational Session 2:45p—3:45 GRB Convention Center Rm 351B

The Impact of FLSA Implementations on Campus Recreation Centers (Education Session) 5:15p—6:15p GRB Convention Center Rm 350B

CRA Reception
5:30p—7p Hilton America Houston RM 330

Tuesday, March 13th

Demystifying Wellness & Fitness for Student Affairs Practitioners (Educational Session) 3p—4p GRB Convention Center Rm 350F

Commission Open Meeting
4:15p—5:15p Hilton America Houston, Rm 338

Damned if I Do, Damned if I Don’t (Educational Session) 5:30p—6:30p GRB Convention Center, Rm 350C

Webinar Coming Soon

Supporting Student-Athletes: A Student Affairs/Athletics Staff’s Guide to Addressing Social Consciousness

The current climate of increased activism regarding social issues by professional athletes in the United States has increased to a point where it has trickled down to the college ranks. This leaves student-athletes, who have a different set of parameters for self-efficacy, in a precarious place of whether or not to use their voice and platform to speak out about what is happening in society. This webinar will provide suggestions to student affairs staff within and outside of athletic departments for supporting student-athletes through processing the impact of social issues and their decision-making process about them.

The panel will consist of:

- Jennifer Grubbs from Valdosta State University,
- Kristina Navarro from the University of Wisconsin,
- and Liz Tovar from the University of Iowa.

The presentation of content by James Archibald (Valdosta State) and Steve Malvaso (University of Iowa) will be followed by a Q&A for participants with professionals who span almost the entire landscape of college athletics (coaching, administration, leadership programs, and teaching/research) on the NCAA Division I, II, and III levels.
Commission Award Winners Announced

Every year, the CRA uses our annual awards as a way to recognize and appreciate the exemplary work in the field of recreation and athletics. Below are the names of individuals who we are excited to recognize for the hard work and dedication in the field of Recreation and Athletics.

**2018 Outstanding Contribution:**

**Dr. James Archibald**

James is and has been dedicated to helping campus recreation programs provide opportunities for students to participate in activities outside the classroom. Many research studies have provided evidence that campus recreational centers tend to have positive effects on student retention, satisfaction, and recruitment; hence, Dr. Archibald’s research area focuses on ways to improve retention and completion rates as these are essential benchmarks in determining student success. Dr. Archibald’s research provided evidence that students who played intramural sports were less likely than their non-participating peers to drop out or transfer to another institution of higher education — meaning the students who participated in recreational activities were more likely to graduate. Because VSU is committed to supporting initiatives designed to enhance student retention, the results of Dr. Archibald’s research led to VSU’s Facilities Planning team designing and overseeing construction of the a new intramural field costing approximately $365,000 to complete. We couldn’t be more proud of James' research in his role as an Associate Professor in the Higher Education program at Valdosta having a tangible impact on the lives of students!

**2018 Graduate Student / New Professional Travel Award:**

**Catherine Thompson**

Catherine is currently on the Directorate of CRA as Vice Chair of Conventions, where she is in the process of planning a self-care fair social/event to be held during the convention. Additionally, she is a part of the ACPA18 Convention Planning Team and the Graduate Student and New Professionals Community of Practice, where she is the Coordinator for Socials and in the process of planning 2 on and off site socials for the convention. While Catherine will be very busy during convention, we couldn’t be more excited to see all of the amazing work that she’ll be sharing all convention long! When she's not running the show, at the big show, she's an office assistant for the First Year Initiatives Program at the University of Louisville.

**Social Media Highlights**

The Commission for Recreation and Athletics is filled with professionals and institutions who are known for their excellence in programs, facilities, and resources. We would like to highlight our talented members, institutions, programs, and facilities on social media. This is an innovative way we can share best practices and highlights in the areas of recreation and athletics.

Our goal is to highlight the amazing things our members are participating in while forming a stronger community for the commission to network, collaborate, and learn from each other.

If you are interested in being highlighted, or you know of a program, facility, institution, or individual who should be highlighted, please complete our social media form at: https://goo.gl/tFJTkz
Things and Dates to Remember

To Do List:

☐ Make sure you are a member of CRA on:
  ☐ Social Media
  ☐ The ACPA Member Community

☐ Engage and participate as a CRA member!

☐ Submit a social media spotlight or article at https://goo.gl/tFJTkz

☐ Think about becoming a Directorate Member yourself. We have option positions! Let Randi know if you are interested.

Professional Development

2018 Convention
March 11-14
Houston, Texas

Two Year College Drive In
June 15
Atlanta, Georgia

2018 Assessment Institute
June 20-22
Chicago, Illinois

Commission for Recreation & Athletics

CRA Are Individuals Who...

- work in
- work with
- do research
- or are interested in
campus recreation and intercolle-
giate athletics

CRA’s Goals Are To:

- Focus on student learning and development – create professional development opportunities
- Focus on creation and dissemination of knowledge – contribute to existing ACPA
- Focus on the development of professional competencies paired with career advancement - assist in the articulation of knowledge and skills needed by student affairs professionals who serve in or address issues in campus recreation and/or athletics

What Does CRA Do?

- Provide Professional Development Opportunities
- Facilitate Networking
- Assist in Positioning ACPA to be an informed Voice on Issues Related to our Commission

The CRA Minute

a publication of:

ACPA
Commission for Recreation and Athletics

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