

# The Eighth Vector



**ACPA**  
STANDING COMMITTEE FOR  
**Graduate Students  
& New Professionals**

## The Chair's Welcome



**Kristan Cilente** —  
Georgetown University

As the new Chair of the Standing Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals (SCGSNP), I am honored and excited to be representing the largest constituency of ACPA to the Executive Council and working with a committed directorate on providing resources and services to our members. I am proud to report that 2004-2005 was a successful year for SCGSNP culminating in tremendous accomplishments in Nashville.

In sum, SCGSNP was the first standing committee with a website off of the ACPA homepage and received much praise from the PD Snapshots planning team. Additionally, SCGSNP was represented on and critical to the development of the PD Snapshots, a new addi-

tion to the National Convention providing resources and workshops relevant to those participating in placement. This is sure to become a staple of convention. Another collaborative venture was the Diversity Table, sponsored by all of the standing committees providing resources to candidates about prospective employers. As another new addition to placement, this is also something that looks to become a permanent part of the interviewing experience.

The roommate matching service (recently renamed Roommate Network Services) was used by at least 35 conference attendees and looks to expand its reach in Indianapolis. Our annual case study competition had a record number of participants, with 29 graduate students and 14 new

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## A Note from the Editor

*by Dennis Hicks*

Summer is here, the students are gone, and you can begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel... but oddly enough, you eagerly prepare for the next tunnel ahead. Strange how student affairs creatures function.

With the summer issue of the 8th Vector sitting neatly on your computer screen, you'll see the progress

SCGSNP has made since our gathering in Nashville. You'll get a snapshot of the experience one of our new colleagues had, and you'll get to know some of the people that help make our Standing Committee phenomenal. It is with their commitment that we shine in ACPA.

I also want to encourage you to check out our website at: [www.myacpa.org/sc/scgsnp/](http://www.myacpa.org/sc/scgsnp/)

Please let us know what you're interested in seeing on the website and help make our website the best it can be!

*The author is Communications Coordinator-elect of the Standing Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals.*

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## The Chair's Welcome

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professionals, yielding excellent involvement from a cross-section of ACPA. The SCGSNP awards were another record-setter, with over 35 nominations recognizing six outstanding individuals. In addition, the directorate renamed its positions from Chairs to Coordinators, hopefully clarifying roles, and added a new position and area of advocacy called the Scholarship Coordinator.

The folks working on this endeavor have secured funding and will be providing at least one scholarship for a first time conference attendee in Indianapolis. Please visit our website for more information on this scholarship in the fall.

Nashville also represented the culmination of a successful publication year, with 2 issues of the Eighth Vector published in 2004-2005 and was the host of 5 SCGSNP Sponsored Programs. Our Convention Colleagues program grew to include many other areas of the association and has become a staple program for the national convention. In addition, the SCGSNP was able to create change within the association to benefit doctoral students. Prior to Nashville, there was three consecutive year limit to the Graduate Student Member rate, which primarily affected doctoral students. This time limit has been removed, and now all full-time doctoral students not employed full-time are eligible for the graduate student membership rate.

On top of all of these amazing accomplishments, the directorate came together as a team, welcomed new members, and said good-bye to outgoing contributors. In closing, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the 2004-2005 successes within the Standing Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals and I look forward to another stellar year. See you in Indianapolis!

*The author is chair of the Standing Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals and is employed at Georgetown University.*

## Past Chair's Report

*by Mark Garrett*

As the Past-Chair of ACPA's Standing Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals, I would like to provide a brief recap of our recent convention in Nashville. The directorate members of SCGSNP met a number of times in Nashville to update one another on our various responsibilities on the directorate, to discuss issues related to our standing committee, and to socialize.

The programs that our standing committee organizes and sponsors at convention were an overwhelming success. The Convention Colleagues program continues to grow as a staple of the convention. We had well over 300 attendees, and the use of the Convention Colleagues program as a springboard for the various mentor-mentee programs sponsored by other standing committees has brought further relevance to this extremely valuable program. Our Case Study Program was an overwhelming success this year, with the number of participants in both the graduate students and the new professionals competitions far exceeding those of past years. This is the sixth year of the case study, and it is starting to really take off. Finally, this year we had an outstanding number of people nominated for the awards that our standing committee gives out. We had over 30 people nominated for our awards, with almost 60 initial nominations. I cannot tell you how pleased I was to see this great turnout. The numerous other areas that our standing committee is involved in, which include sponsored programs, the carnival, our social, our newsletter, membership, fundraising, roommate matching, our website, and our liaisons with other standing committees and core councils have experienced great success.

I would like to say thanks to all of the directorate members who I have had the opportunity to work with over the past several years. I feel very proud to see the directorate members of SCGSNP come together as a team, their enthusiasm for wanting to do more and serve our constituents. It has been my honor to serve as the chair of the Standing Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals and I say thank you for all of your hard work.

# Confessions of a First-Time Convention Attendee

by Annette Martel

Sometimes the decisions I make in life have to be chalked up to complete randomness. Like when I decided to quit my cushy job in public relations and go become a ski bum before eventually finding my way to grad school. Or like the time I decided sign up for the ACPA National Convention this year. I didn't really know why I was going, but for some reason, I just knew it was the right thing to do.

This "knowing" was confirmed at different moments throughout the conference. When I went to my first Commission meeting, I finally figured out the difference between commissions and standing committees. For those of you who don't know, commissions are grouped by functional area and standing committees are grouped by identities that we carry into our work. Anyway, it became much more clear to me just exactly what these commissions and committees do. For most of my first two years as an ACPA member, I just kind of thought they were listservs. They're more. Trust me.

Another moment in the conference was when I opened up the conference booklet and saw just how many of the programs had to do with issues of multiculturalism and diversity. I was also relieved to see that they were sophisticated, multidimensional ways of looking at various identities, cultures, and ways of being. One of my mentors always talks about the importance of finding your professional home. This focus made me feel I had found that place.

Okay, so here's the part that I admit that I am one of those weirdoes who get all excited when I meet famous student affairs people. It's funny, I used to have a job where I worked with actual celebrities, and they generally it's different with I admire them for the ng in the field and es of students, not e red carpet. I met this conference and was excited to see that they are just as human as you and me, and that gives me a lot of inspiration.

Another great moment was not a scheduled convention activity, but will forever be etched in my memory as part of this convention. Because of my busy graduate

student schedule, I ended up having to meet with one of my hometown colleagues at the convention. It was the only time that worked for both of us. We sat down for coffee (but didn't have any), and talked about some of things that were going on in my life as I approach the conclusion of my masters work.



I poured my heart out about some prickly things that were going on in my life and how they tested my strength as a human being. I remember thinking, "Why did this have to happen to me?" My colleague and mentor made it very clear to me, when he said that it had to happen this way. This painful, yet ultimately very joyous, experience helped me to really clarify my values at a depth I had never reached before. It also helped me to grow closer and more connected in my personal relationships. I was amazed at how he could take something that, in my mind, was unnecessary suffering, and show me that it was really a gift wrapped up in a strange package. This lesson will help me so much as a professional, because it will remind me of the really complex issues that students—as well as my colleagues—are facing, and help me be truly present for them in all their humanity.

And so it was with my first National ACPA Convention. A great experience. Unforgettable in its lessons of wisdom, connection, and inspiration.

*The author is Coordinator-elect of the Convention Colleagues Program, and is employed at Oregon State University*

# Continuing Doctoral Student Membership Rate Change

by Kristan Cilente

Early in February 2005, it came to my attention that some of our graduate student constituents were concerned about their full-time student membership rate expiring after three consecutive years, even though they were still enrolled in graduate study and NOT working full-time. This limitation has posed a problem for some students as doctoral programs typically take longer than three years to complete.

As you are well aware, the cost to maintain membership within ACPA and to register for the annual convention can differ significantly depending upon the membership category in which a person falls. This difference can have a considerable impact on doctoral students in their decision whether to maintain their membership and/or to attend the annual convention. Based on this information, I worked with the directorate members of the Standing Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals to propose to the Executive Council an addition to ACPA By-Laws regarding annual membership fees.

The following was included in the proposal  
**“Continuing Doctoral Student (\$45):** Any person who is currently enrolled in an accredited doctoral program related to the student affairs profession for more than three consecutive years and not employed full-time, including individuals who have achieved candidacy and are working on the completion of their dissertation full-time. Individuals participating in work experiences required for the completion of a degree program are exempt. The student’s academic advisor or committee chair must attest to these qualifications in writing to the national office.”

Doctoral student members in good standing would then be allowed to renew his or her membership at the transitional rate of \$60 within one year of graduating. Following that year, these individuals will be responsible for paying the full ACPA membership rate.

After a discussion of this proposal at the Annual Convention in Nashville, the Executive Council removed the time limit allowing all graduate students not working full-time to be eligible for the student membership rate. The SCGSNP Directorate is very proud to announce this change in ACPA By-Laws, which will hopefully assist continuing doctoral students not only in their academics, but also in their professional development through our organization.

# Case Study Success

With growing numbers each year, the Case Study Competition sponsored by our standing committee is pushing graduate students and new professionals to new heights.

Theory-to-practice activities showcased by Student Affairs instructors stress the importance in making connections in and out of classroom learning. Case studies also offer that “What If?” factor to understand our own philosophies of Student Affairs.

The momentum we’ve gained from the past two years with the Case Study Competition will undoubtedly be felt in Indianapolis where we hope to build the competition even further.

The winners of the competition in Nashville are:

## New Professional Division

Ryan Reinhart—First Place  
University of Akron

Jennifer Browning—First Place  
Rollins College

Colleen Schmidt—First Place  
University of Colorado—Boulder

Kipp Van Dyke—Runner Up  
Kansas State University

Suzetter Escobar—Runner Up  
Davidson College

## Graduate Student Division

Mike Saxvik—First Place  
Michigan State University

Juls White—First Place  
Oklahoma State University

Corey Phare—Second Place  
Michigan State University

Denise Williams—Second Place  
University of Georgia

Amanda Farabee—Second Place  
University of Louisville

Meagan Scholl—Third Place  
Western Illinois University

Natasha Jankowski—Third Place  
Kent State University



# Meet the 2005-2006 SCGSNP Directorate

## Ben Correia

**How long have you been in the field?**

Six years

**Where do you currently work?**

I currently work as the Building Manager at the Indiana Memorial Union. This July I started my position as an Asst. Director of Co-Curricular Education and Programming at St. Lawrence University.

**Where did you attend college?**

I went to Albertson College (Idaho) for an undergrad degree in Religious Studies, and to Indiana University for a graduate degree in Student Affairs Administration.

**What position do you hold on the Directorate?** I am the Membership Coordinator-Elect.

**What do you do with your spare time?** I like to watch movies, listen to music, read, run, play tennis, and hang out with friends in my spare time. I recommend *The Chosen* by Chaim Potok as a summer read.



## Erica Nicole Renfrow

**How long have you been in the field?** Three years

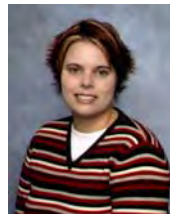
**Where do you currently work?**

I work at The University of Tampa, but I am job searching now.

**Where did you attend college?** I attended NC State ("Go Wolfpack!") for both undergrad and grad. I have a B.S. in Animal Science and a M.Ed in Higher Education Administration.

**What position do you hold on the Directorate?** I am the Coordinator for convention colleagues, and an all around fun person!

**What do you do with your spare time?** I like to Ebay, play with my cats, cook and bake, shop, and veg out whenever possible.



## Ryan Hoffmann

**How long have you been in the field?** Two years

**Where do you currently work?**

I currently work at Loyola University In Chicago.

**Where did you attend college?**

I attended the University of Northern Iowa as an undergrad and Iowa State University as a grad student.

**What position do you hold on the Directorate?** I am a Case Study Co-Coordinator

**What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?** I enjoy (Eating) good food, reading, hanging out with friends, traveling, & watching sports.

## Jennifer Jerousek

**How long have you been in the field?**

Five years

**Where do you currently work?**

I currently am the Community Manager for Evergreen Commons, with Allen & O'Hara a privatized management company that specializes in college housing. I am based in Lock Haven, PA.

**Where did you attend college?** I went to Kent State University for undergrad and grad

**What position do you hold on the Directorate?** I was the outgoing (and possibly continuing) Coordinator for the Membership committee.

**What do you do with your spare time?** I enjoy movies, traveling, and going out with friends during my spare time. I'd also like to say that I have had a great experience being on our directorate and recommend it to everyone.



## Courtney Topolski

**How long have you been in the field?** Seven years

**Where do you currently work?**

University of Maryland, Baltimore County (commonly abbreviated as UMBC) as an Academic Advisor in the College of Engineering and Information Technology.

**Where did you attend college?**

I went to Salisbury University in Maryland for my undergrad degree and NC State University for a graduate degree. I am currently pursuing a Certificate of Advanced Study from Loyola College in Baltimore, MD

**What position do you hold on the Directorate?** Liaison to the Core Council for Professional Issues.

**What do you do in your spare time?**

I enjoy hiking and spending time on water in a canoe.

## Suzette Escobar

**How long have you been in the field?**

One year

**Where do you currently work?** Davidson

College (in Davidson, North Carolina...just outside of Charlotte).

**Where did you attend college?**

I received my undergrad degree from California State University—Fullerton and my Master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

**What position do you hold on the Directorate?** I am the Case Study Co-Coordinator.

**What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?** I enjoy traveling, photography, reading, and watching TV and movies.



# Getting to Know You...

## Jean Rekowski

**How long have you been in the field?** One year

**Where do you currently work?**  
Pfeiffer University

**Where did you attend college? I attended** University of Dallas as an undergrad and Western Illinois University as a grad student.

**What position do you hold on the Directorate?** I am coordinator-elect of scholarship and fellowship

**What do you do with your spare time?** I referee junior high and high school volleyball and basketball games!

## Joshua Hiscock

**How long have you been in the field?** I am starting my first year out of graduate school!

**Where do you currently work?**  
Boston University

**Where did you attend college?** I attended The George Washington University as an undergrad and the University of Maryland as a grad student.

**What position do you hold on the Directorate?** I am the Coordinator of Communications.

**What do you enjoy during your spare time?** I love to go to concerts, watch movies with my friends, listen to all types of music, and enjoy being outdoors!

## Paige Haber

**How long have you been in the field?**

1 year out of undergrad!

**Where do you currently work?**

Department of Resident Life at the University of Maryland College Park.

**Where did you attend college?**

Undergrad: University of Arizona '99- '04; Grad: University of Maryland College Park '04-present



**What position do you hold on the Directorate?** I am a newly elected co-coordinator of Case Study for the 2007 Convention.

**What do you do with your spare time?** I like to read, hang out with friends, card and board games, watch NCAA basketball (Go Cats!), and eat Chipotle.

## Justin Gerboc

**How long have you been in the field?** Three years

**Where do you currently work?**  
Eastern Michigan University

**Where did you attend college?** I attended Allegheny College as an undergrad and The Ohio State University as a grad student.

**What position do you hold on the Directorate?** I am the former person responsible for Sponsored Programs; now I am paprika (a seasoned professional) serving in an advisory capacity and serve as the SCGSNP as Scholarship Co-Coordinator.

**What do you do with your spare time?** Ultimate frisbee.....mostly.

## Kristan Cilente

**How long have you been in the field?** 4 years total, 2 years as a professional.

**Where do you currently work?**  
Georgetown University

**Where did you attend college?** I attended The College of William & Mary as an undergrad and University of Arizona as a grad student.

**What position do you hold on the Directorate?** I am the Chair of the Standing Committee.

**What do you do with your spare time?** I love exploring Washington, DC, spending time with friends, and traveling. I am also beginning the application process for doctoral programs which will soon take up a bit more time!

## Jen Lelinski

**How long have you been in the field?** Two years as a grad student.

**Where do you currently work?**  
I work at Brandeis University in Massachusetts

**Where did you attend college?** I attended Gustavus Adolphus College-as an undergrad and the University of St. Thomas as a grad student.

**What do you do on the Directorate?** I am the Social Coordinator for 2005-2006.

**What do you enjoy doing with your spare time?** I like to sing along to the radio and showtunes (in my car, in the shower, anywhere with little to no audience :-), read, watch Packer football, hang out in the sun (when it comes out) and watch movies.

## Annette Martel

**How long have you been in the field?** I am brand new to student affairs!

**Where do you currently work?**  
Oregon State University

**Where did you attend college?** I attended the University of North Dakota as an undergrad and Oregon State University as a grad student.

**What do you do on the Directorate?** I am the Convention Colleagues Coordinator-elect.

**What do you do in your spare time?** I like to Facebook it ([www.thefacebook.com](http://www.thefacebook.com)), read non-class-assignment readings, volunteer as a human relations facilitator and diversity educator, daydream about what it would be like to have spare time. I am also participated recently in the NASPA/ACPA/ACUI Australia Study Tour! Woohoo!

## ...Getting to Know All About You!

### Leigh Wilson

**How long have you been in the field?** 1 1/2 years

**Where do you currently work?** Texas Tech University

**Where did you attend college?**

I attended the University of Tennessee, Knoxville as an undergrad and Middle Tennessee State University as a grad student.

**What position do you hold on the Directorate?** I am the Social Coordinator-elect.

**What do you like to do in your free time?** I love to kickbox, belly dance, and hang' out!

### Kyle McCool

**How long have you been in the field?** Four years

**Where do you currently work?**

IUPUI (Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis)

**Where did you attend college? I attended** the University of Tulsa (Music Education) as an undergrad and Indiana University (Student Affairs) as a grad student.

**What position do you hold on the Directorate?** I am the Roommate Network Services Coordinator

**What do you enjoy doing with your spare time?** Run (all sorts of distances, I'm crazy), take my crazy wiemaner to the dog park (she's crazy), travel with my husband (though we need a bit more money for all that we have planned!), read, and spend time with friends and family.



### Sherry Early

**How long have you been in the field?**

Four years

**Where do you currently work?**

Michigan State University

**Where did you attend college?**

I completed both my undergrad and grad work at Michigan State University.

**What position do you hold on the Directorate?** Advisory Board; Formerly Sponsored Programs.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?** Travel!!!!

The last two years my big trip has been to Mardi Gras. This year I'm looking at a cruise!



### Dennis Hicks

**How long have you been in the field?**

Four years

**Where do you currently work?**

University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

**Where did you attend college?** I went to both undergrad and grad school at Marshall University—GO HERD! BA in Art Education and MA in Student Affairs.

**What position do you hold on the Directorate?** I am the Communication Coordinator-Elect.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?** I love to be creative and make things. Oddly enough, I like book making/binding, developing my own B/W Photography and writing.



### Jim Kenny

**How long have you been in the field?**

Five years

**Where do you currently work?**

Residence Life at The College of Wooster

**Where did you attend college?**

I went to undergrad at Castleton State College and graduate school at Colorado State University.



**What position do you hold on the Directorate?** I serve on the Advisory Board.

**What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?** I play golf, follow politics, and am involved with my undergrad alma mater as an Alumni Board member.

### Melissa Bemus

**How long have you been in the field?**

Six years

**Where do you currently work?**

I am still job searching, finishing my contract at Marian College of Fond du Lac as a Residence Hall Director

**Where did you attend college?**

I attended Valparaiso University as an undergrad and Loyola University in Chicago as a graduate student.

**What position do you hold on the Directorate?** I'm the former Case Study Coordinator and current Scholarship Coordinator

**What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?** I enjoy singing, reading, biking, renting movies from Netflix, and crocheting (not always that well!)



### Mike Violette

**How long have you been in the field?**

One year

**Where do you currently work?**

University of Pittsburgh, Residence Life

**Where did you attend college?**

I went to the University of Connecticut for both undergraduate and graduate studies. I received a B.A. in Psychology and an M.A. in Higher Education & Student Affairs.

**What position do you hold on the Directorate?**

I am the Webmaster-elect.

**What do you enjoy doing with your spare time?** I enjoy bicycling, outdoor activities, music, & various technological pursuits.



## Call for Programs

The educational curriculum for the 2006 Annual Convention will provide unparalleled professional development opportunities to advance Student Affairs in ***Making a Difference in the Lives of Students***. The convergence of national trends has prompted the Student Affairs profession to be at the center of intentionally making significant contributions to student learning and higher education. The shift from teaching to learning, greater accountability from our multiple partners and stakeholders, and a general renaissance in undergraduate education are some of the issues our profession is addressing. Student Affairs can capitalize on this historical moment through our knowledge about student learning and development, our understanding of how to enhance learning and sustain our efforts, and assisting higher education's readiness to define success in a manner that highlights the efforts of the Student Affairs profession. Student Affairs professionals need to engage in dialogue with key partners on our campuses to help shape and contribute to strategic priorities that make a difference in the lives of students. Doing so requires us to reflect on such topic areas as: Assessment & Accountability, Competency, Innovation, Wholeness, and Integrity.

To this end, the Convention Program Committee calls for program proposals to help shape the five curriculum program tracks that will effectively advance Student Affairs to continue to make invaluable contributions to the practice of *Making a Difference in the Lives of our Students*.

**Assessment & Accountability Track** – *How do we know what works?* Expectations to understand assessment, to analyze and create learning outcomes, and to be accountable for activities in the workplace have consistently grown in recent years. The ACPA convention has traditionally had presentations concerning the latest research in the field and the 2006 Convention wants to highlight this area as one of our greatest assets. How do we know if we are contributing directly to the learning and personal enrichment of students? How do we move beyond descriptive demographics about our students toward more systematic changes that make us more productive and effective learning organizations?

**Competency Track** – *What do we know, or need to know?* Student Affairs believes practitioners and scholars should have certain competencies to serve and assist students. How do we remain current in the literature, pursue essential new skills, and access innovative resources to benefit both our institutions and our students?

**Innovation Track** – *How do we sustain our efforts?* New trends, creating different programs, and working outside the box are often attributes of Student Affairs practitioners. How do we sustain our efforts and keep ourselves on the cutting-edge of Student Affairs practice, teaching, learning, and scholarship?

**Wholeness Track** – *How do we rejuvenate?* Balancing demands of the workplace with other demands of life is often a challenge for many in Student Affairs. Identifying your own balance in order to maintain focus and clarity about your inner-self and work is a goal worth pursuing. How do we rejuvenate and keep ourselves motivated to do the good work we do?

**Integrity Track** – *How do we integrate ethical behavior?* Good practices, ethics, and following one's guiding values or principles can often be the cornerstone for positive leadership and service. How do we integrate ethical behavior in our day-to day work with our students? What ethical mandates must our profession honor in order to move the work of Student Affairs from the margin of our educational institutions to the center of our student's development and success?

**Educational program proposals must be received by Monday, September 12, 2005 at 11:59 pm EDT via on-line submission.**

All programs must be submitted online through the convention data management system.

To submit go to <http://cdms.hbp.com/>