



ACPA
STANDING COMMITTEE FOR
Graduate Students
& New Professionals

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS AND NEW PROFESSIONALS

The Eighth Vector

The Chair's Welcome

Kristan Cilente—University of Maryland, College Park



Can you believe it's been 3 months since we were in Indianapolis for the 2006 ACPA Annual Convention? I sure can't! The Standing Committee for Graduate

Students and New Professionals (SCGSNP) at ACPA might have given the Indy 500 some competition for hottest show in town; our time in Indy was productive and visible. Roommate Network Services helped over 140 people find cost-effective housing and our 6 sponsored programs were well-attended and well-reviewed. Keith "Fletch" Fletcher, Sponsorship Coordinator deserves a big thank you for the great work he did in helping support SCGSNP. Because of Fletch's hard work and great connections, we were able to give away 500 sewing kits, handbills with information on our events, stickers, plaques for case study winners and judges, and the most exciting contribution were our amazing t-shirts! We were able to sell hundreds of t-shirts to create

a fund so we will be able to have scholarships for graduate students to attend the 2007 Joint Meeting in Orlando (grad students...be on the look-out for more information this fall). Thank you to everyone who helped sell and purchase our t-shirts. If you did not get your shirt yet, we will have them in Orlando!

Not only did SCGSNP get our name out there, but we also recognized 5 award recipients and help a successful case study competition. Thank you to everyone who participated in the case study, nominated someone for an award, used the Roommate Network Services MSN Group, attended a social, and participated in elections. It is an honor to work with all of you!

This year was also a big year for ACPA, the Governance Task Force presented its proposal at Convention and I just learned that the proposal passed with a 79% approval. This is an exciting time for our association and our profession.

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A Note from the Editor

Dennis Hicks—University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Summer is almost over and I'm sure everyone is plugging away in preparation for the fall semester. It's almost as if I really didn't get a vacation—such is the life of the Student Affairs Professional.

At this time, I would like to welcome all of the new members of the standing committee and all of the newly elected, newly appointed members of the Directorate. We're definitely making waves at ACPA!

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In this issue, you'll get a chance to see some of the faces that make up the standing committee directorate. Be sure to memorize this information, there will be a test in Orlando—JUST KIDDING!

During this past year, as the Communications Chair Elect, I have really gotten to know what being on this committee is all about and most importantly, I've gotten to know some fantastic people.

There are many ways to become involved in ACPA—and having chosen the Standing Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals is one of the great ways. I hope you find your involvement with us fulfilling and as editor, I encourage you to share your successes with us.

Have a great rest of the summer!

The author is Communications Chair of the Standing Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals.

Getting Settled in at a New Institution

By *Idonas Hughes—University of Nevada, Reno*

Some of you may have taken on new positions this summer while some are taking on their first professional position. Whatever the case may be, here are a few tips to help in your adjustment.

AS YOU BEGIN

PERSONAL BUDGET - Take this opportunity to establish/improve your budget, research bank savings/checking accounts, area taxes etc. Live-in --- Put aside an amount that is close to what you would be paying in rent; when you do move off campus, you will have money for rent/utilities.

FORMAL/INFORMAL PROCEDURES – Watch and listen. Read files, policies, publications, mission statements, department goals, etc. Trust carefully. Maintain a social/professional balance. Learn the politics. Think carefully before choosing a “side” or one is chosen for you.

INFORMATION SCREENING – Avoid listening to rumors and pre-judging co-workers. Do not burn bridges before you know where they lead!

NEGOTIATING A NEW SYSTEM – Learn from the institution’s past and adapt your past experiences. Keep the best and discard the rest. Observe and listen carefully!

PERSONAL WELLNESS – Schedule personal time from day one; don’t wait for a break in the routine, it may never come! Plan at least one weekend per month to relax, get away if possible (especially if you live-in).

Starting over – This can be a new beginning, leave negative “baggage” behind.

GENERAL SURVIVAL

Ask Questions!

Listen, Listen, Listen!

Do What You Think Is Best – give 110% vs. the minimum required.

Offer Suggestions – After you are aware of how the system works.

Avoid the comment “We always did it this way when I was at {“former school”}”.

Take Risks – As a new person, mistakes are allowed.

TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES – free courses --- even if you do not plan to use them to obtain a future degree, consider courses that will expose you to other areas (art, literature, athletic related

courses...).

AREA RESOURCES – Check area services --- free video/audio tap from local libraries. Free maps from State Police...

BENEFITS – *Health plans* – read the materials! Many schools offer workshops, examinations, etc. Also note change/removal dates. Retirement – What is the best plan? How long do you plan to stay? Tax forms.

CAMPUS SERVICES – Discount purchasing of computers, bookstore items, travel services, etc.

CONFERENCE TRAVEL – Take advantage of conference travel by incorporating “mini-vacation” side trips.

CREDIT UNION/LOCAL BANKS – Direct deposit, free services for employees, loans, credit cards, financial services, etc. Consider a bankcard that can be accessed in other states.

ENTERTAINMENT – Campus performances, speakers, etc. Area discounts with an ID or campus affiliation – museums, galleries. Reduced price movie passes, etc.

Original created by Idonas Hughes (idonashughes@hotmail.com) with assistance from Heather Turner and Beth Settje, University of Connecticut, with additional information from the ACPA Career Development Commission, last revision -- April 2005.

The Chair’s Welcome (Continued From Page 1)

Thank you all for your commitment to college students, ACPA, and SCGSNP. It was wonderful to meet so many of you in Indianapolis and I am looking forward to Orlando (program submissions are due September 8 and don’t forget, you can’t reserve a hotel until you register for the meeting, visit <http://2007jointmeeting.org> for more information)!

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

Getting Involved with ACPA

Amanda Suniti Niskodé - Indiana University

Are you interested in getting involved with the leadership of ACPA? Well, if you are, we thought it might be helpful to hear how some members of the SCGSNP got started! So in this issue of Eighth Vector, we feature the story of Amanda Suniti Niskodé.

"After I finished my master's program and began my first full-time job, I really wanted to get more involved in professional associations. So at an ACPA convention in 2004, I began to actively NETWORK.

"I found my niche by volunteering to serve as a liaison. . ."

At a program session on the last day of the convention, I ran into a Student Affairs professional I knew from my undergraduate career, and asked him "how I could get involved and take on a leadership role?" He recommended that I start by getting involved at the STATE LEVEL. So he said to email the president of OCPA (Ohio College Personnel Association), which I did. Long story short, I was elected later that spring to serve on the Executive Board as the Member-at-Large for 4-yr public institutions. This experience enabled me to meet a lot of great people and get connected with professionals around the state. I really enjoyed learning how this branch of ACPA worked!

At the same conference, I attended another program session about multiracial students. The presenter said that they were establishing a new group, called the Multiracial Network (a branch of the Standing Committee for Multicultural Affairs). They said if people wanted to get involved on the directorate, then to fill out an interest form. Later that summer I was contacted and volunteered to serve as the membership co-coordinator. Since then I was elected and currently serve as the Chair for the MRN directorate. I valued pursuing this area because it is of personal and professional importance to me. Additionally, it has helped me get connected with other people who are active within ACPA.

Last year, I became interested in SCGSNP. I found my niche by volunteering to serve as a liaison between SCGSNP and the Commission for Professional Preparation. I enjoyed networking with Graduate Program Preparation faculty and sharing with them programs/matters that were of interest and importance to graduate students and new professionals. Since then I was elected to serve as the Convention Colleagues coordinator. It has been great getting to know my peers on the SCGSNP, making new friends, and establishing life-long colleagues from around the country.

GOOD LUCK! REMEMBER ACTIVELY NETWORK AND ASK HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED!"

Update on Sponsored Programs for 2007

Mike "DeBo" DeBowes—University of Vermont

Greetings! It is almost hard to imagine that the deadline to submit programs for the Joint Meeting is less than two months away (September 8, 2006 – mark your calendars!). As the Coordinator for Sponsored Programs for ACPA's Standing Committee for Graduate Students & New Professionals, I wanted to take a moment and provide you with a brief update about Sponsored Programs.

To begin, each year our Standing Committee sponsors a select number of programs which are of professional or personal interest to graduate students and new professionals. This year, our Standing Committee is partnering with the NASPA New Professionals and Graduate Students Knowledge Community to co-sponsor 6 programs for the Joint Meeting.

An official call for Sponsored Programs will soon appear on the Standing Committee listserv. However, you are welcome to submit proposals immediately via the official Joint Meeting website, <http://www.2007jointmeeting.org/>. Requirements for program proposals and sponsorship can be found on this site by clicking "Call for Programs" on the main site menu.

When submitting a proposal, be sure to indicate if you wish for your program to be considered for sponsorship, and be prepared to address how your programs relates to the mission and work of the sponsoring committee/knowledge community.

Also in the near future, we will also be inviting Standing Committee members to serve as program reviewers. This is both a great way to make a contribution to the success of the upcoming Joint Meeting and it is a chance to learn more about the process for submitting proposals.

If you are interested in serving as a Program Reviewer, or you have additional questions about submitting or reviewing sponsored programs for the Joint Meeting, please e-mail me at mdebows@uvm.edu. Be sure to watch for more announcements later this summer!



**Our Power and
Responsibility to
Shape Education**

**ACPA/NASPA
Joint Meeting
March 31 - April 4
2007 • Orlando, FL**

A LeaderShape Reflection

Nicole Long—University of Nevada, Las Vegas

This past June, I had the opportunity to serve as a Cluster Facilitator for a national session of the LeaderShape Institute. Having seen many of my students come back from LeaderShape changed, inspired and motivated, I was extremely eager to participate as a facilitator. I, too, left LeaderShape feeling changed, inspired and motivated. Overall, the experience was phenomenal!

My experience as a Cluster Facilitator far exceeded all of my expectations. During my time at LeaderShape, I was able to connect with an amazing group of students and colleagues from around the country amidst the beautiful Allerton Conference Center in Champaign, Illinois. I had the honor of being the facilitator for my family known as the Butternut Bunch. I was amazed at how quickly I became attached to the Butternut Bunch and the four other family clusters.

The Cluster Facilitator role in the LeaderShape Institute was unlike any other facilitation experience I have had. In traditional facilitator roles, I can comfortably end the day with little reflection and be ok with that. At LeaderShape, I found myself “digging deep” in the wee hours of the morning to reflect on who I am as an individual, a leader and professional. By the end of the week, I felt like a changed person who truly knew what it meant to be an authentic person who leads with integrity. I can honestly classify the LeaderShape Institute as one of the most important and meaningful profes-



sional and personal development experiences in my time as a new professional.

The Cluster Facilitator experience is one in which I highly encourage other new professionals to seek out. The experience reaffirmed why I chose to work in higher education. The application process for summer 2007 Cluster Facilitators will begin in the fall. For more information on serving as a cluster facilitator, you can visit www.leadershape.org.

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 year’s case study was about helping with the search for a new Vice President of Student Services at “Southeast University” and the multiple problems the school is facing in student life, budget cuts, lack of staff retention due to budget cuts, and low student morale.

The winners of the competition in Indianapolis are:



Michael Brown ; Iowa State University
Kristen Arnold; Eastern Michigan University



Grace Fama; Michigan State University
Jaclyn Timmer; Loyola University, Chicago

Get to Know the SCGSNP Directorate

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Noteworthy items:

- Completed Ph.D. in Higher Education at Loyola University Chicago May 2005
- Dissertation title is “An Exploration of the Impact of a Campus or Community Crisis on the College Choice Behavior of Prospective Students”
- Named as a member of the 2006-07 Woodhull Institute Alumnae Committee

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SCGSNP Directorate Continued

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Newsorthy Item: I was published in the 27th volume of The Vermont Connection, a peer-reviewed scholarly journal of the UVM HESA program. The article is called Intergroup Dialogues: A Promising Practice for Cross-Cultural Engagement

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Newsorthy Items: Just finished her Masters and was a first time presenter at ACPA this year. She also found her new job by going through placement at ACPA.

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Snap Shots from ACPA—Indianapolis

ACPA Convention 2006 was a huge success for the social network of SCGSNP. A few highlights of events include:

- Social at local brewery, Alcatraz
- Convention Showcase with motorized cars to play with and free sewing kits
- Awards Banquet

We are currently planning our socials for the ACPA/NASPA Joint Meeting 2007 in Orlando, Florida. We are looking for fun local sites for socials and great giveaways for the Convention Showcase.

If you have a location in mind, contact Leigh Wilson at leigh.wilson@ttu.edu



Would you like to submit an article or information for upcoming issues or just have questions or comments on this issue of The Eighth Vector?

Please contact Dennis Hicks, Editor and SCGSNP
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An Update from Our Chair

Kristan Cilente

It's that time of year, classes are beginning, residence halls are opening, and the SCGSNP Newsletter is out! A lot has happened since the last edition of 8th Vector, the New Professionals Survey results are available, scholarship applications are being reviewed, and positions are available on the SCGSNP directorate!

I am so happy to report that the results of the New Professionals Survey are available for your review! SCGSNP, along with the Commission for Assessment, and the ACPA International Office collaborated on an assessment to gather information about the professional development needs of new professionals in an effort to better serve that population of our profession. For information on the findings, visit: <http://www.myacpa.org/research/newprofessionals.php?content=home-page>

Other exciting news relates to our first ever graduate student scholarship! Thanks to the wonderful t-shirts donated and sold at convention, SCGSNP is happy to be sponsoring 2 graduate students to attend the Joint Meeting in Orlando. We received over 90 applications and those recipients will be announced shortly after the New Year.

If you're looking to get more involved with ACPA and SCGSNP, there are 3 positions available! The Coordinator-elect for Communications and Coordinator-Elect for Sponsorship/Fundraising positions are currently vacant. Look for more information soon! Also, my term is just about up as Chair, the call for nominations will be available shortly, so if you or someone you know is interested, keep an eye out! Our meeting in Orlando is just a few months away, I am excited about our partnership with NASPA's Knowledge Community for New Professionals and Graduate Students. Amongst our many socials and gatherings, we will begin our time in Orlando with a Joint Social. Watch your email for updates as we near March 31!

See you in Orlando!

The author is Chair of the Standing Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals and is employed at the University of Maryland.

A Note from the Editor

Dennis Hicks

We're at the mid-point of another school year and the Joint Meeting is coming soon. Where did the time go? It seems like only yesterday when we were planning for the return of our students. Now our Freshmen are almost Sophomores!

This current issue of The 8th Vector is a precursor to what you can expect in Orlando. As a graduate student or a new professional, the experience of being a member of such an

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active Standing Committee and the excitement that awaits as we come together with members of NASPA, in the most magical place on earth, only solidifies that there will be a lot of great things happening.

We have many members presenting sessions and workshops and many others working toward making your experience at the Joint Meeting worthwhile.

As you read through this issue, consider the possibilities that await you. Being new to the field is an awesomely spectacular time in your career and the Standing Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals are excited to have you as a member.

The author is Communications Chair of the Standing Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals and is employed at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas..

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS AND NEW PROFESSIONALS

The 8th Vector



“Reflections on the ACPA Cultural Study Tour to Ghana”

Sarah Hermsmeier, Michigan State University

“The Unknown”

On June 5, 2006, twelve ACPA members – from master’s and doctoral students to faculty, mid-level practitioners to senior-level student affairs administrators – and I came together at Washington Dulles International Airport where we departed on a plane bound for “the unknown.” I call it this because most of us only knew Ghana through ACPA literature and Google-found articles and pictures. Aside from our itinerary-based knowledge of Ghana’s history and culture and basic understanding of the fundamentals of American travel there – passport and visa; malaria pills and DEET insect repellent; “Akwaaba!” and “Me daa se” (“Welcome!” and “Thank You”); rice, plantains, and fresh water; bartering for arts and crafts – Ghana really was “the unknown” to me. Not “the unknown” one lecturer referenced as the life of bondage an estimated 12 to 20 million Africans were displaced to during the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Rather, this and what other knowledge and experiences awaited us was largely unknown to me.

As a white American, how would I experience being immersed in Ghanaian culture? As a first-generation college student, how would I share my journey in a part of the world most of my family members (and I) never dreamed of seeing? And as a graduate student and educator, how would I use what knowledge I gained through my experiences in Ghana to educate others? No itinerary, search engine, or guidebook could answer these questions for me. Even now as I reflect on my rich, transformative, life-changing experiences in Ghana, these questions remain difficult to answer in any definite or concise way. Each member of our diverse group likely answers them differently, or asks different questions altogether. But, each of us that participated in the ACPA Cultural Study Tour to Ghana, by virtue of our vocation as college student educators, now shares a common purpose of educating others through our experiences in Ghana. So, here I will share a handful of my most meaningful experiences through the lens of identity, with the dual purposes of educating others through my experiences learning through the process of reflecting on them, which is where I believe the real journey begins.



From Shout Wipes to Simple Living

My initial experiences as a white American in a developing African country were marked by culture shock and feelings of guilt. Both scared and anxious as I departed for “the unknown,” my journal reflections indicate how tightly I first clung to what *was* known – the privileges of America. Within my first few days of travel, I wrote

in my journal, “It was then [arriving at Accra International Airport] that I felt real privilege. As we cut in front of and passed by rows of more ordinary-looking people, receiving

the special treatment of expedited deplaning and immigration and customs processing, I felt it. And what scared me the most was my initial feeling of deserving this. After all, we had had a grueling two days of travel.” In fact, during our flight to Accra I went so far as to make a list of “things I wish I’d brought,” which included Shout wipes and saline nasal spray among other things. Thankfully, along with these I had left behind my cell phone, laptop, and most other unnecessary items, making room for me to bring what our host, ACPA Executive Director Greg Roberts, has asked us to bring on this trip: our flexibility and understanding, both essentials for making this a rich cultural experience.

On day two of our trip, I wrote, “Coming to Ghana, I presumed seeing the conditions of a developing nation would either frighten or sadden me. But I am neither. While at this point the Ghanaians still face poverty and oppression, they are in their own way prosperous. They are richly cultural and deeply spiritual. They live simply, peacefully, and happily. The world is theirs. I want to share it with them.” I wanted to share their simple, peaceful, happy world with them. Little did I know, I had and I do. Driving home from Detroit Metro Airport, I burst into tears at the first sign of a Wal-Mart. It was then that I realized how significantly my life had been changed during my two weeks in Ghana. I realized that the United States, a once *known* place, was suddenly unfamiliar and uncomfortable to me. It had become the new “unknown.”

It’s Not Just About Me

As a first-generation college student, my most powerful and meaningful experiences on this trip did not occur in Ghana, but rather while leaving and re-entering the United States. In Washington Dulles International Airport awaiting our departure, I wrote in my journal, “I cried today, on the first day of my journey. I said I wouldn’t, but I did. What began as a late start getting to the airport in Lansing turned into a cancelled flight in Chicago, forgetting all of my original travel documents, and making a laundry list of things I wish I’d brought. When it comes right down to it, though, that’s not what made me cry. It was realizing that all of the parting conversations I had today were about me – my trip. While I spend two weeks in a part of the world I once never dreamed of seeing, my partner will work another 50-60 hour-week at a job he may or may not like except that it might lead to something better for him, and us. And my parents? They do nearly the same, except they’ve been doing it for 30 years longer. They struggle as working class Americans

“Reflections” Continued on page 3

plagued by the same social system that likely placed me right here, right now. Today, all I could talk about was me, but all I can think of is them.”

I spent that day and several days after feeling guilty about what scholars call upward mobility via higher education. During the past year in graduate school, I had experienced the privileges that moving upward into the “education class” afforded me, and

“Reflections” continued.

subsequently increased feelings of dissonance between my world at school and world at home, of being different than and set apart from my family. Not surprisingly, while in Ghana, an actual world apart from my parents and family, I felt those same feelings tenfold. But like it or not, guilty or not, I was going to Africa, and I had to take full advantage of the opportunity and begin making the stories I knew I had to

“No itinerary, search engine, or guidebook could answer these questions for me.”

share with my family. As much as this trip was about me, it was also about them. It was about the sacrifices my parents made so I could go where they couldn't – to college, to Africa.

After all those years of dreaming beyond my world, my parents had helped me to go there. So, rather than spending my entire trip to Ghana feeling guilty about that, I accepted it, embraced it, and upon returning home, spent days sharing pictures and stories of my experiences with my parents, who did not go to Africa with me, but could go through me.

Where Responsibility Begins

I end with my experiences in Ghana as a graduate student and educator because as much as I learned from the Ghanaians, I learned equally as much from the Americans who traveled with me. As much as I learned about Ghana's higher education system, I learned equally as much about the American institutions represented by my colleagues. I have no doubt that even given the rich history and culture of Ghana, my journey into “the unknown” would not have been as meaningful or impacting without the ACPA members who shared that journey with me. We helped each other to process the tremendous and rapid cultural immersion that overwhelmed us after only three days on the tour. We encouraged each other to try things we otherwise wouldn't – authentic Ghanaian foods, traditional cultural dances, posing with legendary crocodiles, even walking across rainforest rope bridges suspended hundreds of feet above the ground – all because “We're in Africa!” Most importantly, we co-created the knowledge and experiences we would use to educate others about Ghana.

I mentioned earlier that our common purpose is now to educate others, which I have hopefully accomplished through reflecting on my experiences in Ghana. I would also suggest that our common responsibility is also to encourage others to



engage in similar global encounters. As college student educators, we are responsible for developing our students as global citizens, which begins with engaging in the types of global experiences we aspire for our students. As members of the higher education community, we are responsible for shaping higher education globally, which begins with reaching beyond our own institutions to learn from and share with college student educators from across our country and world. And as human beings, we are responsible for loving one another, for being advocates for social justice and agents for social change. At the very least, this begins with what Margaret Wheatley calls “bearing witness,” the “simple practice of being brave enough to sit with human suffering, to acknowledge it for what it is, to not flee from it, to be willing to let others' experiences enter our hearts.”

The author is a member of the Standing Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals where she serves as Liaison to the Core Council for Professional Development. She is a graduate student at Michigan State University.

Upcoming International Student Affairs Study Tour

May 21, 2007 – June 3, 2007

Sponsored by ACPA, ACUI, ACUHO-I, NAPSA

Program Description

In this century, student affairs professionals are helping to prepare students to live and work in a global society. This means the profession needs to gain a global perspective and understanding of other societies, especially their educational systems.

What do you need to know in preparing today's student?

The 2007 International Student Affairs Study Tour Program focuses on South Africa. Learn about student services in the South African higher education and student affairs administrators and student leaders. Register soon for a fabulous two-week tour with colleagues and friends. Visit Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town, and other cities as the tour winds through South Africa.

Who can participate?

The trip is limited to 50 participants and sold out within days of being opened in 2005.

Visit <http://www.myacpa.org/pd/cultural-tour/SouthAfrica/index.cfm> or for more information, contact [Jacquie Skinner Jackson](#) or 1.202.835.2272.

If hyperlink is inactive, cut and paste this URL: <http://www.myacpa.org/au/staff/email.php?name=Jacqueline%20Skinner%20Jackson>

Joint Meeting Info

Case Study Competition

Orientation - Sunday, April 1, 2007 from 1:00-2:00 PM
(Location: Naples 1 - Gaylord)

Competition - Monday, April 2, 2007 from 8:30-5:00 PM (Grad Student Location: Emerald 5 - Gaylord; New Professional Location: Emerald 7 - Gaylord)

ACPA's Standing Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals and NASPA's Annual Graduate Case Study Competition collaborate this year to bring you the 2007 Joint Meeting Case Study Competition. As part of the Joint Meeting, teams will be given a thought-provoking case study relevant to the field of Student Affairs, and teams will present their solution to a panel of judges.

Presentations by Standing Committee Members

Nicole Long and other members of the Student Life Diversity Committee from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas will be presenting full-day pre-conference workshop titled "Navigating Diversity: A Shared Responsibility for Infusing Multicultural Competence into Everyday Practice" on Sunday, April 1 in the Marco Island room at the Orlando World Center Marriott Resort.

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Amy Garver, **Susan D. Johnson**, **Amanda Suniti Niskodé**, and **Ted Ingram** will be presenting *Shaping Deep Approaches to Learning on Your Campus* on Tuesday, April 3rd from 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM in Rm. Sawgrass - Marriott

Steven Mencarini and **Amanda Suniti Niskodé** will be presenting *A New Responsibility: Supervision as a New Professional* on Wednesday April 4th from 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM in Rm. Miami 3 - Gaylord

Sherri Ihle, **Jonathan Todd** and **Eric Estes** from Oberlin College will be presenting a roundtable discussion on "Gender Identity: Can Institutional Policy Shape Education?" The Roundtable will take place on April 3, 2007 at 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM in the Grand Ballroom Salon III - Marriott

Michael M. DeBowes, **Pamela K Gardner**, **Sabrina T. Kwist**, **Alvin A. Sturdivant**, and **Lecretia E. Johnson** from The University of Vermont, **Jacob L. Diaz** from Seattle University, and **Jaime Washington** of the Washington Consulting Group will be presenting the half-day workshop "From Ambivalence to Action: Institutional Steps Towards Becoming a Multiculturally Affirming Campus". The workshop will take place on March 31, 2007 from 1-4PM

Darrell Goodwin from Seattle University and **Michael DeBowes** from the University of Vermont will present "Rethinking Educational Sanctions: The Project Discovery Program" The session will take place April 2, 2007 at 1:45-3PM

Pursuing the Ph.D.: Considerations for Applying to Doctoral Programs

Presentation by: Amanda Suniti Niskodé, Jennifer Lelinski, Lisa Kelsay, Kristan Cilente, Tierree Smith

Are you interested in applying to a doctoral program? If so, have you considered the challenges and benefits of pursuing a doctorate degree? To make this decision, it is important to find the program that fits your needs and obtain appropriate resources that will guide you through your decision-making process.

Pursuing a doctorate degree will have a significant effect on your life, and there are many things you must consider in the timing of your decision. For example:

- Why are you interested in pursuing a doctorate degree?
- Are you academically prepared to pursue a doctorate degree?
- When is the appropriate time for you to begin the application process for your doctoral program?
- Have you honestly considered the potential impact that pursuing a doctorate degree might have on your relationship(s)?
- Are you ready to move on from your current position?
- Will your employer support you during your doctoral program?
- Do you have enough work experience to compliment a doctorate degree?

Do you know what you are looking for in a graduate program?

There are also many considerations for deciding where to apply, such as location, type of degree (Ph.D. or Ed.D.), focus of the program (i.e. counseling, higher education administration, and college student personnel), and delivery of the program (distance education or on-site). In addition, think about whether you should apply as a full-time student or part-time student and what graduate assistantships/internships are available to you. It is also important for you to identify your research interests/dissertation focus. Before entering your program you should identify an academic mentor with similar scholarly interest.

Upon reflecting on the many great where, when, and why questions, it is also important to talk with key professionals with whom you have a relationship to consider your many options. In addition, consider taking a course at a nearby institution to support your decision-making process. Talking with colleagues, mentors, and friends as well as taking courses at nearby institutions will help you develop a greater sense of what you need to be successful.

Considering a doctoral program can be overwhelming. To learn more about purposing a doctorate degree, please attend our workshop, Pursuing the Ph.D.: Considerations for Applying to

Doctoral Programs at the 2007 ACPA/NASPA joint conference. You may also visit ACPA's Commission for Professional Preparation website at <http://www.myacpa.org/c12/directory.htm> for specific information on graduate programs.

Information at the Pursuing the Ph.D.: Considerations for Applying to Doctoral Programs workshop will be shared from the following resources:

- Austin, A. E. (2002). Preparing the next generation of faculty: Graduate school as socialization to the academic career. *Journal of Higher Education*, 73(1), 94-122.
- Barnett, T. L. (1997). *The influence of organizational culture, work environment, and personal work life on job satisfaction and career commitment of student affairs middle*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, the Claremont Graduate School.
- Kirby, A. F. & Woodward, D. (Eds.). (1984). Career perspectives in student affairs. Columbus, OH: National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.
- Toma, J. D., Clark, C. & Jacobs, B. (1998). Reconciling the professional and the personal for the new student affairs professional. In M. Amey & L. M. Reesor (Eds.), *Beginning your journey: A guide for new professionals in student affairs* (pp. 67-85).
- Young, R. B. (1985). Impressions of the development of professional identity: From program to practice. *NASPA Journal*, 23 (2), 50-60.

Presentation Information:

Pursuing the Ph.D.: Considerations for Applying to Doctoral Programs will be presented on Tuesday, April 3 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM at the Harbor Beach – Marriott.

Announcements

Project Assistance Needed

In the effort to link graduate programs and students together all over the country, Annie Russell will be working toward creating a national organization for Student Personnel Associations that exist within graduate programs during her time in the position of Membership Chair. In order to make this goal a reality, she will need help from all of you! Please email or call Annie Russell at the information listed below and answer two easy questions: do you have a student personnel organization for your graduate program and if so, what does that organization do? If you are interested in assisting with this project, please contact me, as well. In working together, I believe that we can strengthen the ties between graduate programs and improve our profession as a whole.

To submit information, please contact:

Annie Russell
Membership Chair-Elect
Standing Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals
russele1@ohio.edu
740-597-3004

The National Consortium of Directors of LGBT Resources in Higher Education is seeking 2007 summer interns!

Every year Consortium interns work over the summer to conduct research and projects that advance the knowledge and capacity of LGBT Campus Resource Centers and the field of LGBT Student Services.

The Consortium program offers several professional opportunities, including:

- The opportunity to intern at institutions all over the country
- Developing contacts within LGBT Student Affairs.
- A report of the work published in the Consortium's Annual Newsletter.
- Making a presentation to LGBT Directors from across the country during the LGBT Campus Administrators Day-Long Institute.
- Receiving a scholarship to the NGLTF Creating Change Conference™, a national conference of LGBT activists, academics and service providers.

Responsibilities and compensation for specific internships vary, depending on the institution and internship supervisor, but all Consortium interns must:

- Be enrolled in a graduate studies program
- Complete and submit an internship application

More information about the Consortium Intern program, including information about previous intern projects and locations, can be found at the Member Services section of the National Consortium of Directors of LGBT Resources in Higher Education website: <http://www.lgbtcampus.org> or by e-mailing the Internship Program coordinator, Khristian Kemp-DeLisser, at kkempdel@ad.ui

From the **Commission on the Student Development in the Two-Year College**: We are looking for a writer to submit an article on wellness and the two-year college student, and/or a writer to submit an article on understanding the two-year college student for the newsletter. Have you written a paper on these topics or conducted research and want to publish? If so, contact Lisa Kelsay at kelsayl@morainevalley.edu for more information.

Growing Our Profession: *Shaping the Future* in Orlando!

As we look toward our own professional experience in Orlando at the 2007 Joint Meeting, it is never too late to think of the potential experience of students aspiring to join the field of student affairs. There are few better ways to introduce our students to the field than by affording them the opportunity to attend ***Shaping the Future: Together Creating Our Leaders of Tomorrow***, a joint collaboration of the ACPA Next Generation and NASPA NUFPP conferences.

Shaping the Future is a two day experience for undergraduates and others who are exploring student affairs and higher education administration as a career option. The conference will begin at 9:00 AM on Saturday, March 31 and conclude at 4:00 PM on Sunday, April 1. Combining the strengths of ACPA's Next Generation conference and NASPA's Undergraduate Fellows Program, *Shaping the Future* offers participants an experiential learning opportunity to gain an understanding of our work and national associations, the tools and resources to guide them in their career exploration, and generate excitement for working in the field. The conference will be highlighted by networking opportunities for students, breakout sessions on graduate school and the field of student affairs, and a keynote address by Dr. Jonathan Poullard, Dean of Students at UC Berkeley.

The registration fee for this conference is \$100. Registration can be completed on-line at the Joint Meeting web site. For questions about the conference, please contact Laura Osteen at osteen@fsu.edu

DP's Adventure

By Darren Pierre

I am now five months into my first full time position and we are approaching the end of December. Once I accepted my position at the University of San Francisco I went back to my eager mentors and colleagues at the University Of Maryland College Park (UMCP) to get their last words of support and wisdom before I embarked on this new chapter in my life.

I came to San Francisco disheveled and missing a bag or two (thank goodness for baggage claim receipts). After a day to settle in, I hit the ground running going to human resources, learning benefits, taking campus tours and setting up voice mail. I thought I was off and running until I got the news on day two on the job that my supervisor was leaving the institution at the end of the month. Upon hearing about my supervisor's resignation, I thought to myself that there should have been a chapter in one of those great books in Graduate School on this.

With all the transitions about to happen in the work place, I knew I was going to have to quickly hone my skills, because we were going to have to hit the ground running. With a sigh, I began to think about our upcoming orientation program (one of the biggest programs in our office) and how we were going to manage one staff member short.

It seems as soon as I started to grasp the office topography, the personal challenges of moving to the city began to set in. One of the first things I had to do when I moved here was to find a place to live. I could have never imagined how competitive it would be to find a place to live in the city. I would call fam-

ily and friends often updating them on my pending housing search and letting them know about the ups and downs that I had along the way.

BifSniff.com



After a series of challenging events; I now write from a place of gratitude and thankfulness for the support of great co-workers and new found friends. After a student sponsored program I often ask my students what was learned from that experience (what was the teachable moment). If I had to surmise my own teachable moment from this experience into one word it would be "persevere" that I hear from friends who are being challenged by their position, but I believe that even through adversity there are great moments. From the past five months I have learned the value of resilience which strengthens my joy in the work I do in the development of our college students.

The author is a member of the Standing Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals and is employed at the University of San Francisco.

If you have a Graduate Student or New Professional story you'd like to share, please email

Dennis Hicks at
Dennis.Hicks@unlv.edu

The 8th Vector will gladly publish your story in upcoming issues.

2007 JOINT MEETING SPONSORED PROGRAMS

GRADUATE STUDENTS & NEW PROFESSIONALS

Responding to Emergency & Crisis Situations as Entry-Level Professionals

4/2/2007

10:15 AM - 11:30 AM

Grand Ballroom Salon I, Marriott

Whether it be moments of emergency occurring on campus such as student injury or fire, or the impact outside crisis has on students' well-being, new professionals and graduate assistants are often faced with substantial challenges being front-line support in the student affairs profession. This session, designed for entry-level professionals, will complement the theory learned in graduate preparation programs and provide successful practical approaches for responding to campus exigency through discussion and case studies.

Jason Borges, *University of Hartford*

Teresa Crum, *Allen & O'Hara Education Services*

Brian Niefert, *Western Carolina University*

Young, Fabulous and Broke: Taking Responsibility and Teaching Responsibility

4/2/2007

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

Sun Ballroom 6, Gaylord

Students and new professionals are in debt and using credit earlier and more often. To borrow Suze Orman's title, many are "Young, Fabulous and Broke," which often limits future choices. Disciplines outside of finance have not focused on providing students with financial management skills. Presenters will provide education about finance generally and then to intertwine programming on finance throughout student affairs. Participants will make individual commitments to financial success and professional commitments to teach students to make wise financial choices.

Debra Wood, *Scripps College*

DeEttra Mulay, *Scripps College*

Doing Scholarly Personal Narrative Writing for the Dissertation or Thesis

4/3/2007

10:15 AM - 11:30 AM

Chicago, Marriott

Student Affairs plays a critical role in creating environments that promote and foster student learning and development. Student affairs professionals' potential contributions to scholarship through research via Scholarly Personal Narrative writing (SPN) are compelling. SPN is a research methodology, a way of thinking, and a way of writing, about professional practice. This session focuses on the why's and how's of doing SPN writing for the thesis or dissertation. Participants will learn about all facets of selecting and implementing this methodology.

Andrea McManus, *New England Culinary Institute*

Pamela K. Gardner, *The University of Vermont*

Our Power and Responsibility to Shape our Professional Associations

4/3/2007

12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

Chicago, Marriott

Navigating the field of student affairs can be daunting. As a tightly networked field, breaking into the collegial web is sometimes hard for graduate students and new professionals. Professional development is crucial on campus and through professional associations. How does one navigate creating a professional portfolio of experiences on campus as well as through professional associations? Past Presidents of ACPA and NASPA will serve on a panel to share their experiences and provide insight into becoming involved in professional associations.

Kristan Cilente, *The University of Maryland, College Park*

Jeff Grim, *Michigan State University*

Darren Pierre, *The University of San Francisco*

New Female Professionals 10 Years Later: The Power of Time

4/4/2007

8:00 AM - 9:15 AM

Sun Ballroom 5, Gaylord

New professional women from the 1997 & 1998 graduating classes collaborated to present the challenges and successes of their entrance into higher education at the national conference. Join us 10 years later to learn, reflect, and discuss the unexpected lessons learned concerning institution type, position choice, inter-office relations, work/life balance, institutional politics, marriage & children (or not), doctoral studies, burnout, supervision, and the choice to remain or leave higher education. This will be a supportive and soul-searching session!

Gayle Hartleroad, *Ball State University*

Johanna Chasse, *Contemporary Solutions*

Karla Iseler, *Mary Kay Cosmetics*

Lisa Kelsay, *Moraine Valley Community College*

Amy Smitter, *Michigan Campus Compact*

Pam Wells, *Plymouth State University*

First Year on the Job: Themes from the National Study of New Professionals in Student Affairs

4/4/2007

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

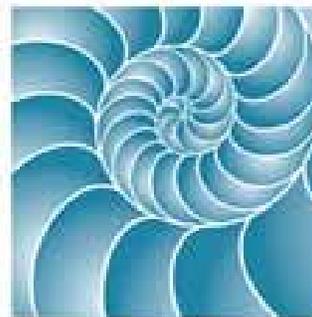
Sun Ballroom B, Gaylord

The first year as a full-time student affairs professional can be challenging, rewarding, frustrating, and joyful. In this session, we present themes from a longitudinal study of over 100 new professionals from across North America. Graduate students and new professionals (and colleagues who supervise either or both) are invited to join us as we discuss how to make the most of the transition from into the profession and how to deal with common challenges.

Kristen Renn, *Michigan State University*

Jennifer Hodges, *Michigan State University*

Eric Jessup Anger, *Michigan State University*



Our Power and
Responsibility to
Shape Education

ACPA/NASPA
Joint Meeting
March 31 - April 4
2007 • Orlando, FL

Congratulations to our first two SCGSNP Scholarship winners! With over 90 applications received, the recipients who will be joining us in Orlando are Staci Hersh from New York University and Danielle Morgan from Salem State College.

*Would you like to submit an article or information for upcoming issues or just have questions or comments on this issue of **The Eighth Vector**?*

Please contact Dennis Hicks, Editor and SCGSNP Communications Chair at
Dennis.Hicks@unlv.edu

In the next issue of **The 8th Vector**, we'll cover what to expect at the Joint Meeting as a "first-timer", ways to get involved in the SCGSNP in Orlando, and all things related to making your experience spectacular!



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

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS
AND NEW PROFESSIONALS

The 8th Vector

An Update from Our Chair

Kristan Cilente

With the slow approach of spring in the Mid-Atlantic, I am very much looking forward to the warmth of Orlando in a week! Aside from sunshine and warm temperatures, it is also a time to bring together old and new friends and colleagues and come together to discuss *Our Power and Responsibility to Shape Education*.

Along with NASPA's Knowledge Community for New Professionals and Graduate Students, SCGSNP has been working hard to prepare the best slate of programs and services for the 2007 Joint Meeting. A few highlights:

-The Annual Case Study may be the most competitive one yet! More than forty teams signed up for less than twenty spots, best of luck to all teams!

-What would an ACPA be without SCGSNP socials? Meet us in the Marriott main lobby on Saturday night for a fun outing with our NASPA counterparts and get some snacks at our Awards social on Tuesday night in the Osceola Ballroom 4 of the Gaylord at 7pm.

-Don't forget your \$5 to buy an SCGSNP

t-shirt. All money benefits our graduate student scholarship (congratulations to this year's recipients!).

-Is this your first ACPA or NASPA? Come to the Joint Meeting Orientation on Sunday at 4pm in the Crystal Ballroom, Salon H in the Marriott for food, networking, and tips on how to navigate the Joint Meeting and student affairs professional associations.

-Interested in getting more involved? Learn more about SCGSNP at our Open Meeting on Monday at 5:30pm in the Gainesville Rooms 1 and 2 in the Gaylord. If you'd like to run for an elected position, join us Tuesday at 3pm in the Crystal Ballroom, Salon E in the Marriott for our elections!

This has been an exciting year for ACPA and our new governance structure will go into place this summer. Thank you for your commitment to our association and I look forward to seeing you in Orlando!

The author is Chair of the Standing Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals and is employed at the University of Maryland.

A Note from the Editor

Dennis Hicks

It's finally time! The Joint Meeting in Orlando has arrived and now is your time to get involved!

This issue is the Standing Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals opportunity to give you a primer of what to expect at the Joint Meeting and what you can expect from us.

Whether you're a new professional or lightly

seasoned, you're sure to find something of interest at this amazing conference.

Take a look through the pages and makes notes of the opportunities before you. How do you want to get involved with committees, directorates, and programs? What do you hope to get from the experience? How do you plan to network and build connections with colleagues from around the country?

Don't let the sun be the only thing shining brightly in Orlando. Now is your time to shine!

The author is Communications Chair of the Standing Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals and is employed at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Inside this issue:

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Joint Meeting Information	2
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How to Enjoy a Conference	4
SCGSNP Sponsored Programs	6

Are You a First-Timer?

Is this your FIRST TIME attending ACPA/NASPA?

If the answer is YES, please join us for the JOINT MEETING ORIENTATION on Sunday, April 1st from 4-5:00pm in the Crystal Ballroom, Salon H Marriott

This is your OPPORTUNITY to meet the leaders of both ACPA and NASPA, network with other first-time attendees and seasoned student affairs professionals, and learn how to make the most of your joint meeting experience.

No need to sign up ahead of time. Just bring yourself!

In the meantime, check out the following Web site that will give you lots of TIPS and SUGGESTIONS for Before, During, and After the Joint Meeting, along with highlights of important meetings, sponsored programs, events, and socials:

(TIP: Please open this link using Internet Explorer)
<http://www.csulb.edu/~agarcia2/ACPA.NASPA.website.htm>

If you have any questions, please just let us know.

Thanks and we look forward to seeing you there!

2007 Joint Meeting Orientation Team

SCGSNP Events of Interest

(Please check final program for possible room changes)

April 1 (Sunday)

1:00pm-2:00pm: Case Study Orientation

4:00pm-5:30pm: Joint Meeting Orientation: Crystal Ballroom Salon H-Marriott

6:00pm: Opening Speaker and Reception: Osceola and Sun Ballrooms-Gaylord

April 2 (Monday)

8:30am-4:30pm: Case Study Competition: Grad Student Location: Emerald 5 Gaylord;

5:30pm-6:30pm: Open Meeting: Gainesville 1/2-Gaylord

5:30pm-6:30pm: Grad Students and New Professionals Roundtable: Miami-Marriott

6:30pm-8:00pm: Carnival: Crystal and Grand Ballrooms-Marriott

April 3 (Tuesday)

3:00pm-5:00pm: Elections: Crystal Ballroom Salon E-Marriott

7:00pm-9:00pm: On-site Awards Banquet and Social: Osceola Ballroom 4-Gaylord

A message from the Liaison to the Commission for Assessment for Student Development...

Take the time to learn more about the ASK Standards at the Joint Meeting!

Assessment Skills and Knowledge (ASK) for Student Affairs Scholars-Practitioners

Tuesday, April 3

12:00-1:15pm, Gaylord Sanibel 2 &3

Presenters: Gavin Henning and Alice Mitchell

The ASK standards, an assessment curriculum, provide details on specific areas of assessment skill and knowledge needed by student affairs professionals. Authored by the CASD in consultation with diverse constituents across ACPA, these standards provide a framework for all professional development offerings in assessment. Graduate students and new professionals will find this session helpful, as assessment is a skill set needed for advancement in a career in student affairs.

Case Study Competition

Orientation - Sunday, April 1, 2007 from 1:00-2:00 PM (Location: Naples 1 - Gaylord)

Competition - Monday, April 2, 2007 from 8:30-5:00 PM (Grad Student Location: Emerald 5, 7, and 8—Gaylord)

ACPA's Standing Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals and NASPA's Annual Graduate Case Study Competition collaborate this year to bring you the 2007 Joint Meeting Case Study Competition. As part of the Joint Meeting, teams have been given a thought-provoking case study relevant to the field of Student Affairs, and teams will present their solution to a panel of judges.

Please be aware that the Case Study Competition is closed to non-participants.

Presentations

Presentations by Standing Committee Members

Nicole Long and other members of the Student Life Diversity Committee from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas will be presenting full-day pre-conference workshop titled "Navigating Diversity: A Shared Responsibility for Infusing Multicultural Competence into Everyday Practice" on Sunday, April 1 in the Marco Island room at the Orlando World Center Marriott Resort.

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Chad Ahren, Helen-Grace Ryan, and Amanda Suniti Niskodé will be presenting *Making the Familiar Strange: How a Culture Audit can Boost your Advising Impact* on Tuesday, April 3rd from 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM in Rm. Sun Ballroom 1 - Gaylord

Sarah Hermsmeier, Meredith Davis Johnson, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey; Tonisha Shanks, Michigan State University; and Gregory Roberts, ACPA-College Student Educators International will be presenting "A Mission That Unites: Cultural Study In Ghana Broadens Our Global Perspectives" on Monday, April 2nd at 8:30-9:45 a.m. in the Daytona Room 1/2—Gaylord

Amy Garver, Susan D. Johnson, Amanda Suniti Niskodé, and Ted Ingram will be presenting *Shaping Deep Approaches to Learning on Your Campus* on Tuesday, April 3rd from 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM in Rm. Sawgrass - Marriott

Steven Mencarini and Amanda Suniti Niskodé will be presenting *A New Responsibility: Supervision as a New Professional* on Wednesday April 4th from 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM in Rm. Miami 3 - Gaylord

Sherri Ihle, Jonathan Todd and Eric Estes from Oberlin College will be presenting a roundtable discussion on "Gender Identity: Can Institutional Policy Shape Education?" The Roundtable will take place on April 3, 2007 at 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM in the Grand Ballroom Salon III - Marriott

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Darrell Goodwin from Seattle University and **Michael DeBowes** from the University of Vermont will present "Rethinking Educational Sanctions: The Project Discovery Program" The session will take place April 2, 2007 at 1:45-3PM in the Marriott St. Louis Room.

My Artist Temper

Jeremy Polk

“Could someone get these naked children out of the hallway?” Those were the first words I yelled after picking up the phone receiver a moment too early. I was about to begin an interview for a graduate assistantship in the Office of Student Activities at the college I had been accepted to in New York. At the moment I was directing a summer art program (my bachelor degree is in fine art) for elementary students in Louisiana and what would become my future director was calling to start my phone interview. On my end of the receiver someone was not adequately supervising the students clothing change in order to go swimming, obviously. What a first impression.

That was three years ago, what now seems like an eternity. And apparently the phone interview went well. Prior to moving to attend graduate school in Brooklyn I had been the first public art school teacher at a high school in Northeast Louisiana (building the program from scratch) and then later the inaugural director of a visual and performing arts center in the same community. I desperately wanted to advance my degree and possibly work with college students. So after being a “professional” for many years I was stepping backwards in a sense by taking a job as a graduate assistant. Luckily, my new director gave me free reign to run the parts of the office I was in charge of in my style, my way.

Fast forward six months ago when I took my first job out of graduate school in student activities at an art and design college in Maryland. At the time I began I was confident I knew how to do every aspect of my job. In the past I had been in charge of a three-million dollar facility, ran major events, and designed publicity and marketing strategies and worked in student activities for two years. I knew what to do. But by the six month mark in my new position I was completely uninspired and found myself looking for another job. At work I felt constrained and narrowed in what I was doing and in my eyes it was simply unacceptable. As an assistant director, I am not numero uno and my director and I had two VERY different working styles, neither of which meshed together very well at first. Though we never fought per se, one could always feel a hint of our tension in the air. I always thought she was not giving me the time and space to facilitate my ideas and she always thought everything needed to be done immediately to be efficient and productive. She wanted to be kept in the loop of every detailed aspect of my projects, and I liked being left to my own devices. Two opposite ends of the working style spectrum.

After the winter holiday I took the opportunity to step back and look at the situation objectively. It occurred to me that although I knew how to do every aspect of my current job, and yes, I had ran major programs and facilities, I had not, however, run them within the context of a major institution which in itself con-

tained a host of other problems and objectives. So instead of pushing against the grain as I had been doing for six months, I decided to go with the grain and allow my director to help facilitate my learning to a new and more complex level.

The author is a New Professional and an employee at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, Maryland.

How to Enjoy a Conference

- o Never pass up an opportunity to go out with a group to eat, especially in favor of a gathering with "more important people" that may or may not occur.

- o Don't let yourself get cynical about schmoozing. This IS what the meeting is about and that's not a bad thing. It is quite common for newbies and beginners to feel left out because they don't know too many people. A common response to this feeling is to express disdain for how "it's all just a big reunion of people who don't care whether a nobody like me lives or dies." That's true. The secret, though, is to know that that IS all that it is and the only reason you feel that way is because you don't know too many people yet. Give yourself some time. Quickly slipping into the defensive wall flower frame of mind is a sure recipe for prolonging the period in which you feel like you don't know anybody.

- o Related to this, don't get too turned off by nametag gazing. It is what people do at these things. Yes, people will check yours out, discover that you are nobody and then move on. Some of the folks doing this are real ass-kissing idiots who are just looking for famous people to kiss up to. Don't sweat it. Don't let the turkeys get you down.

- o Think about this sociologically. You have a gathering of several thousand people from one profession. Most of them work in middle of nowhere places with two colleagues, one of whom they loathe. They spend all year teaching the writings of other people (some of whom are their heroes) to 19 year olds. Some of those heroes are walking around the hotel. Of course they're looking at the name tags.

Alternatively, here you have a gathering of several thousand people in the same profession. Profession and job is one of the most common categories for sorting the people in one's world. If everyone around you is in the same profession, you need some other status markers to help you order the crowd. Look at the nametags.

Continued on Page 5

How to Enjoy a Conference continued from page 4

Taken from <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~danhorn/conference.txt>

o Remember that it's OK to engage people in serious conversations about what they do, what they think about, etc. This may be the only time all year where you don't have to explain what sociology is or that it is NOT the same as social work to the person who says "oh, my brother is a social worker."

o Don't worry about money -- that's what plastic is for. In the end, you are going to spend more than you intended; no use wasting emotional energy fretting about it.

o Stay in the main conference hotel whenever possible. The idea of staying with a friend who lives just twenty minutes outside of town is almost always a bad one.

o Recognize and celebrate the fact that the most important and enjoyable part of the annual meeting is the stuff that occurs OUTSIDE of the sessions.

o After you've heard your fourth or fifth poorly presented paper on poorly thought-out research, remind yourself that the speaker teaches for a living and wonder how someone who talks in front of groups 4 to 8 times a week can fail to have ever gotten good at it.

o Upon checking in, locate the health club or fitness center in your hotel and see what their hours are. Then look around to see if they have a decent breakfast buffet in one of the restaurants. Next, scan through the index of the program to see if there is anyone you absolutely don't want to miss a talk by. Draw a little time chart and note where these talks are and when. If you're not doing anything else, you can try to catch them. After this, make a list of all the people you want to say hello to, have a meal with or meet. This roster is your main task list for the meeting.

o Remember that everyone else is feeling like they don't know anyone too.

o Always remember the first law of socializing: act like a host. This means taking the initiative and introducing yourself to others. It means keeping in mind the people you know and have met so that when you meet someone new, even if your interests are a million miles apart, you can always say "Have you met so and so? You should. I'll introduce you when I see you together." And then, when you do, they'll possibly be grateful for the intro, but definitely remember the service. All of this is based loosely on good network theory: weak ties are all -- be one whenever you can.

o If you have the opportunity to introduce someone big and someone small, do it by asking the big person if they've met the small one, not vice versa. It's a wonderfully pleasant way to go against the standard status inequalities.

o Be as socially generous as possible. It almost never "costs" anything to invite someone along, bring them into a conversation, introduce them to a colleague, connect them to someone of common interests, etc. and these things (a) are always remembered, and (b) go around and come around.

o Buy some books.

o If you're giving a talk, just tell us what you did, why you thought it was interesting and what we should remember about what you found out or showed. The point of the talk is to help me decide whether I might want to read your work or not.

o If you are giving a talk, do not read your paper. Do not fight with the organizer over time. Do not be convinced that the audience will be enthralled if only you can get this one last point in. Do not edit out whole sections on the fly as you notice time running out. If you find yourself falling in love with your own prose, exercise caution.

All of these things will serve only to make you look inept, unprofessional, immature and uninteresting.

o Don't join your nutso colleagues in the mad rush to grab books at a discount as the book exhibits close. The behavior of some folks at this moment is truly embarrassing -- best not to join them.

o Remember, you are going to spend a few days with 3 or 4 thousand people who are, perhaps, better at analyzing the social world than participating in it. Be kind. We're all in this together.



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



2007 JOINT MEETING SPONSORED PROGRAMS

GRADUATE STUDENTS & NEW PROFESSIONALS

Responding to Emergency & Crisis Situations as Entry-Level Professionals

4/2/2007

10:15 AM - 11:30 AM

Grand Ballroom Salon I, Marriott

Whether it be moments of emergency occurring on campus such as student injury or fire, or the impact outside crisis has on students' well-being, new professionals and graduate assistants are often faced with substantial challenges being front-line support in the student affairs profession. This session, designed for entry-level professionals, will complement the theory learned in graduate preparation programs and provide successful practical approaches for responding to campus exigency through discussion and case studies.

Jason Borges, *University of Hartford*

Teresa Crum, *Allen & O'Hara Education Services*

Brian Nieft, *Western Carolina University*

Young, Fabulous and Broke: Taking Responsibility and Teaching Responsibility

4/2/2007

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

Sun Ballroom 6, Gaylord

Students and new professionals are in debt and using credit earlier and more often. To borrow Suze Orman's title, many are "Young, Fabulous and Broke," which often limits future choices. Disciplines outside of finance have not focused on providing students with financial management skills. Presenters will provide education about finance generally and then to intertwine programming on finance throughout student affairs. Participants will make individual commitments to financial success and professional commitments to teach students to make wise financial choices.

Debra Wood, *Scripps College*

DeEttra Mulay, *Scripps College*

Doing Scholarly Personal Narrative Writing for the Dissertation or Thesis

4/3/2007

10:15 AM - 11:30 AM

Chicago, Marriott

Student Affairs plays a critical role in creating environments that promote and foster student learning and development. Student affairs professionals' potential contributions to scholarship through research via Scholarly Personal Narrative writing (SPN) are compelling. SPN is a research methodology, a way of thinking, and a way of writing, about professional practice. This session focuses on the why's and how's of doing SPN writing for the thesis or dissertation. Participants will learn about all facets of selecting and implementing this methodology.

Andrea McManus, *New England Culinary Institute*

Pamela K. Gardner, *The University of Vermont*

Our Power and Responsibility to Shape our Professional Associations

4/2/2007

8:30 AM

Chicago, Marriott

Navigating the field of student affairs can be daunting. As a tightly networked field, breaking into the collegial web is sometimes hard for graduate students and new professionals. Professional development is crucial on campus and through professional associations. How does one navigate creating a professional portfolio of experiences on campus as well as through professional associations? Past Presidents of ACPA and NASPA will serve on a panel to share their experiences and provide insight into becoming involved in professional associations.

Kristan Cilente, *The University of Maryland, College Park*

Jeff Grim, *Michigan State University*

Darren Pierre, *The University of San Francisco*

New Female Professionals 10 Years Later: The Power of Time

4/4/2007

8:00 AM - 9:15 AM

Sun Ballroom 5, Gaylord

New professional women from the 1997 & 1998 graduating classes collaborated to present the challenges and successes of their entrance into higher education at the national conference. Join us 10 years later to learn, reflect, and discuss the unexpected lessons learned concerning institution type, position choice, inter-office relations, work/life balance, institutional politics, marriage & children (or not), doctoral studies, burnout, supervision, and the choice to remain or leave higher education. This will be a supportive and soul-searching session!

Gayle Hartleroad, *Ball State University*

Johanna Chasse, *Contemporary Solutions*

Karla Iseler, *Mary Kay Cosmetics*

Lisa Kelsay, *Moraine Valley Community College*

Amy Smitter, *Michigan Campus Compact*

Pam Wells, *Plymouth State University*

First Year on the Job: Themes from the National Study of New Professionals in Student Affairs

4/4/2007

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Sun Ballroom B, Gaylord

The first year as a full-time student affairs professional can be challenging, rewarding, frustrating, and joyful. In this session, we present themes from a longitudinal study of over 100 new professionals from across North America. Graduate students and new professionals (and colleagues who supervise either or both) are invited to join us as we discuss how to make the most of the transition from into the profession and how to deal with common challenges.

Kristen Renn, *Michigan State University*

Jennifer Hodges, *Michigan State University*

Eric Jessup Anger, *Michigan State University*

Get your First Glimpse of Atlanta 2008 at the Joint Meeting Exhibit Hall!!

- What can you expect from your 2008 ACPA Convention experience?
- In what intentionally powerful ways will this convention be distinct?
- What knowledge and skills do you intend to gain?
- How will attending contribute to your becoming a better professional?
- Why is Atlanta a top educational and convention destination? What exciting things can you do during your visit to this renaissance city?

Begin to formulate your own answers to these provocative questions at the 2007 Joint Meeting!

Be sure to stop by the 2008 ACPA Convention booth located outside the exhibit hall at the Marriott World Center Hotel where you can experience the convention theme, learn more about what Atlanta has to offer, and share your hopes for the 2008 Convention with members of the planning team. **There will be plenty of great giveaways and daily raffles, including free music downloads. Enter to win an iPod Shuffle, a portable DVD player, and other fantastic items.** Additionally, there will be a **special drawing for Placement participants to win 1 of 5 iPods!** All you have to do is check your Placement mailbox for the Convention brochure, then take that stub to the 2008 ACPA Convention booth in the exhibit hall or to the Showcase/Carnival on Monday night.

We are also looking for folks to volunteer to help out at the Convention booth. Any amount of time you can give is greatly appreciated! You can submit your preferred times here:

<http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zqi?p=WEB2268XJ94YJQ>.

*Would you like to submit an article or information for upcoming issues or just have questions or comments on this issue of **The Eighth Vector?***

Please contact Dennis Hicks, Editor and SCGSNP Communications Chair at
Dennis.Hicks@unlv.edu