

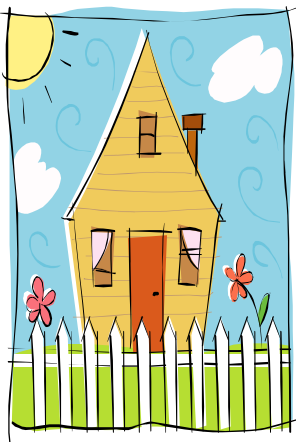
WCPA SPRING NEWSLETTER

Spring 2006
Issue



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Careers in Student Affairs 2006

Although it's only April, planning for the 2006 Careers in Student Affairs has been well under way for several months. This year the conference, designed for undergrad students with interests in a future career in student affairs, will have a few major changes. First of all the conference schedule will have a much different time schedule. In the past the conference has always been held before the professional conference, starting on Wednesday morning and running until after lunch on Thursday. After

much input from the past presidents, the conference will be held after the Fall Annual Conference, starting late morning on Friday and running till mid day Saturday. The thought was that some students were unable to attend due to class schedules.

The past presidents input is very important to the Careers Conference; this group founded this conference several years ago and still assist with the planning and organization as well as provides large amounts of support in

assisting during the conference. The past presidents meet annually in the summer to work on the details of the event.

More information on this year's Careers in Student Affairs Conference will be posted on-line in the next couple months on the WCPA web site. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions.

Steve Taylor
Immediate Past President
Steve.taylor@cuw.edu

WCPA Technology Update:

Later this year we will be unveiling some new additions to the WCPA website that will allow us to offer additional services to our membership. We have already begun early development testing to ensure we will have seamless online registration capabilities for both WCPA membership and our WCPA conference and PDI registrations. We have already implemented several new improvements this year: WCPA now accepts online payments via paypal.com, a newly developed WCPA Message Board, and the introduction of a download section. I am constantly examining new ways to better meet the needs of the WCPA membership. If you have questions or suggestions please feel free to email

me.
WCPA Message Board:
www.MyWCPA.org/Connect/

As we enter a new generation it becomes time to move forward and develop innovative methods to communicate within an organization. To meet these needs I have developed a PHP message board that can be utilized to facilitate communication among our general membership and to post updates that can be reviewed and searched. The usefulness of the message board will increase with usage and I would strongly encourage everyone to register and post something.



Introduction of
www.MyWCPA.org

This additional website was created to be able to add new features that we currently cannot do so from our current provider. This will be the website where we will be able to add online registration and membership signup. It will also offer additional services in the future such as a searchable online membership database for our membership. As more developments occur please go to the WCPA message board for more details.

Thank you for your continued support. Questions and suggestions can be forwarded to myself at the following email address:

Suwalski@mio.uwosh.edu



Member in the Spotlight– Will Van Rossenbeek

The newest member of the WCPA Executive Board is the “Member in the Spotlight” for this edition of the Newsletter. Will Van Rossenbeek is now serving as the Committee Representative for Admissions, Orientation and Student Activities. Aside from working to represent a variety of functional areas within our organization, Will’s main employment is at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Within the role of Student Services Specialist, Will advises the campus Involvement Center and Pride Center and works as an advisor to the Rainbow Unity UW-L’s Gay Straight Alliance.

After completing a BS in Therapeutic Recreation from UW-La Crosse, Will began working at Gundersen Lutheran as a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist and at the Residential Treatment Center and Half-Way Houses as their AODA. From 1995-97 Will worked for The UW- La Crosse University Centers as a Graduate Assistant while completing a degree in CSP from the university. Following this work Will was the Director of Community Youth Services for Coulee CAP (Community Action Program).

Will has worked for UW- La Crosse since 2000. When asked what your favorite part of your current position is, Will answered, “I love working with the students! Helping students who are dealing with their sexual orientation or gender identity/expression is both re-warding and challenging. I love seeing them grow into their true selves!” In five years Will hopes to be the director of a LGBTQQA Center on a campus and to continue to educate people about LGBTQQA issues.

One of the main reasons why Will stood out to me as a person to “spotlight” in our membership were the honors Will has achieved in the short time I have been a member of WCPA.

Following is a list of the many awards Will has been recognized for:

- Wisconsin College Student Personnel Association Outstanding Conference Program Award (2005)
- Wisconsin College Student Personnel Association Outstanding Program Award (2005)
- Wisconsin College Student Personnel Association Outstanding Professional Award (2004)
- Outstanding Advisor Award – UW-L Celebration of Involvement and Leadership (2003)
- GALAXY’s Lesbigoaytrans Adult of the Year Award (2001)
- Dayton’s Volunteer of the Year (1998)
- Wisconsin College Student Personnel Association Case Study Competition Winner (1996)
- Wisconsin College Student Personnel Association Daniel Siler Memorial Scholarship Winner (1996)

With all of these awards comes a feeling of satisfaction for being recognized as an excellent professional and a resource in a specific area of knowledge. However, it is also important to recognize Will’s personal achievements. When asked what those may be Will wanted the membership to know... “I am in the process of transitioning and I identify as transgender. I hope to officially change my name to Willem (Will) this summer or fall.” Congratulations to Will, best of luck and continued success.

Questions You May want to ask Students/Fellow Staff Members after watching the movie;

1. What is your opinion of the movie?
2. What was your most enjoyable part?
3. What part made you angry? sad? confused?
4. Does it matter who you love?
5. How can you relate your close relationships with the relationship between Ennis and Jack? Do you see similarities? Differences?
6. Do you believe things have changed for LGBT couples since 1963? How? Do you believe this statement

holds true, “Love is love, it does not matter who you love, it matters how you love.”

Follow up program ideas:

- Have a panel of LGBT students/faculty/staff/community members come and talk with your students/department.
- Have students write a review of the movie. Let it be a complete opinion based review.
- Subscribe to Lavender Magazine and make it available in your office.

Helpful Links:

- www.lambda10.org
- <http://www.glaad.org/>
- <http://www.pflag.org/>



COLLEGE and BROKEBACK

Review of Brokeback Mountain

Genre: Drama / Romance

Tagline: Love Is A Force Of Nature

Plot Outline: Based on the [E. Annie Proulx](#) story about a forbidden and secretive relationship between two cowboys and their lives over the years.

Summary by Focus Features: The new film from Academy Award-nominated director [Ang Lee](#). An epic love story set against the sweeping vistas of Alberta’s Rocky Mountains, Brokeback Mountain tells the story of two young men - a ranch-hand and a rodeo cowboy - who meet in the summer of 1963, and unexpectedly forge a lifelong connection, one whose complications, joys and tragedies provide a testament to the endurance and power of love.

Captive Audience: Staff and Students

AN INTRODUCTION TO “GENTECH” OR GENERATION TECH

By Matt Suwalski
WCPA Technology and Communications Coordinator

As we begin training for next year and we begin to evaluate our current and future students several new trends are arising. Students today are embracing and growing up with a Tech savvy childhood and it begins to spread now into higher education. This not only has implications inside the classroom, but also affects everyone across campus in an equally perplexing manner.

Technology in the Classroom:

As students learn to use more advanced cell phone and PDA (personal digital assistant) technology the need for more policies becomes apparent, regarding what they can and can't have with them. As the speed and availability of access to the internet increases student's lives are becoming blurred with an altered state of reality. It becomes easier for websites to pop up claiming to be an online warehouse of papers that students can download and submit for their own class assignments. So it becomes necessary then, that universities seek out means to counteract this by purchasing software that can scan a student's paper for discrepancies and possible plagiarism (www.Turnitin.com a reference to an Anti-Plagiarism website). So, as the capabilities of technology increases, it is a two-fold battle to give assistance to students, but also maintain academic integrity within the classroom. Another device taking over the classroom is the concept of “googling” something for a research paper. More and more students will spend less and less time in a campus library and prefer the comforts of their room to search the archives and internet databases. This becomes an increasingly sensitive issue. College professors will point out that although something may appear on the internet it does not necessarily mean it's true. Students will “Google” something and assume it is factual, using it out of context and without corroboration or scrutiny from an educational source (www.Google.com is a very popular internet search engine and “googling” refers to using the website to do a search).

Parents and Students:

When we take a step out of the classroom for a minute and look at our student's relationships with their parents we can also see the influences of technology. Before, students wouldn't have access or the money to keep in contact with parents having to pay for long-distance phone charges. However, as cell phone technology has increased and the cost per minute has decreased to a reasonable level, students are finding it easier and easier to keep in touch with their parents. Thus, leading to an increase and quicker response from parents, possible contributing to the perception that parents are more involved with their student's lives. Parents have become accustomed to having a means to instantly contact their son or daughter at their fingertips. This has had both a positive and negative strain on the current generation of students. They are finding it easier for

parents to become overly involved in their lives, which provide additional pressures to an already intense situation. Conversely some students have fully embraced this and bask in the omnipresence of their parents relying (almost to an unhealthy comfort) that they can in an instant, contact their parents should anything go wrong or contrary to how they would have liked. With this knowledge we can learn how to better understand our students and how they communicate with their parents.



Instant Messaging:

This is not necessarily a new technology, but has continued to evolve over the last 10 years into something that students rely on. When a student comes back from class they may check their computer screen to see who is “online” or search through the profiles of friends to see what they are up to as many of them would leave away message that give details of their whereabouts, such as “out at the store back in a few,” or “at class till 1pm then time for quick lunch and out at xyz meeting.” Other students have even gone to the extreme of having conversations with roommates who are in the same room as they are. Some even engage in arguments when their backs are no more than 3 feet from each other, but still choose to type their arguments than confront each other directly. Instant messaging has continued to persist because it is quick and reliable means to communicate where anyone can leave messages even when not directly at the computer. In some rare situations students are using IM'ing as a means to meet other people and can develop relationships online. This can raise some questions because students spending more time online can lead to different levels of development. It provides a means to confront others in a non-direct confrontational manner. One must also carefully examine the messages and intent from the communications as well because it can become easy to misinterpret the message. There have been instances where students seeking attention, but also wanting to publicly announce their intention to do harm, have resorted to IM'ing friends and family members. So we must carefully take all communication at face value and encourage others to follow-up in person to clarify “intentions” and “meanings” to conversations.

This article is not a comprehensive examination but rather a snippet meant to bring to attention these topics, which can be useful for discussion when trying to explain or examine our current students. Students grow up in a world that can be vastly different than other generations. From an early age these students learn to understand and utilize technology to assist them in their daily lives. By continuing to research and understand these trends we can better assist the current generation of students.

If you would like to post your comments on this article I would suggest visiting our WCPA Message board located at: www.MyWCPA.org/Connect/

Convention Crossroads:

News from the State/International Division meetings from Indianapolis and glimpses of the future.

No doubt the end of the year has your area humming with activity and you are ready for the summer break. It is hard to believe we are a month past the ACPA annual convention. It feels like we just left the Hilton. While in Indianapolis, I had the pleasure of attending the State/International Division meetings on behalf of our president Louise Paskey and I would like to pass along some of the tidbits from those sessions.

First and foremost, I would like to report that the professionals leading our fellow state and international divisions are an amazing group. It was a pleasure to spend time with so many people who care deeply about the development of their constituents and the field. It was also a delight to be around Wisconsin's very own Ann Groves-Lloyd, the Director of State/International Divisions. We are lucky to have her.

The meetings centered around three main topics of discussion: collaboration and best practices, ACPA's proposed governance changes, and opportunities for the future. We broke into groups to discuss the successes and challenges facing our respective associations. Within these groups some resounding themes were: the use of technology to better connect and inform membership, the frequency and location of professional development opportunities, and membership benefits. I shared our foray into PayPal with the group as well as our recently successful PDI on mental health. The general sense among the group was that technology was a critical key to better serving our members, but it also presented challenges. To that end, I will shamelessly plug our website (www.wcpa.ws) and extort the hard work of Matt Suwalski, our Technol-

ogy & Communications Coordinator. Other suggestions and ideas that were shared with me from other states are too numerous to mention, but I will be bringing them for discussion with the executive board.

One opportunity for collaboration that was discussed and is moving forward is the possibility of a Great Lakes professional journal. The associations making up the Great Lakes met and decided that we are in support of the journal in principle and are looking into the logistics of incorporating the journal and identifying an editorial board. This presents a tremendous opportunity for our members to publish in a peer reviewed arena. If you are interested in learning more about serving on the editorial board or have suggestions, I welcome you to contact me (dsarnows@cc.edu). We will keep you informed of any developments with this opportunity.

Perhaps one of the most important topics of our meetings, and indeed the whole conference, was the discussion of the proposed changes to the ACPA governance structure.



I would like to acknowledge that I am in favor of the new proposed structure. I encourage you to visit the Governance Task Force website at www.umbc.edu/acpa where you can review their research, minutes and other information so that you may come to your own conclusions. At the Indianapolis conference, the Governance Task Force's report on the proposed changes was accepted by the ACPA executive board, meaning that the proposed changes will eventually make their way to a vote by the membership in the near future. The changes that have the potential to most greatly impact us as an association are the following: the work of the current head of the State/International divisions will be altered; the national office will now have a full time professional tasked with the support and development of the State and International divisions. Ann Groves-Lloyd's current position will be split into two positions: Coordinator for State Divisions and Coordinator for International Divisions. The goals of these changes are to allow for more consistent support of State and International

Divisions. It also displays the recognition that as ACPA seeks to expand globally, international divisions will face different challenges than the states. The work of the task force was thorough, and I again encourage you to visit their website.

The future was also a topic of discussion in both a broad and specific sense. Broadly, the topic of sustainability in higher education was brought up. The Michigan College Personnel Association has done some work with this. Grand Valley State University in Michigan is working towards being a sustainable institution. This is a big issue that you will no doubt be hearing more and more about.

In specific, we learned more about the joint ACPA/NASPA meeting that will take place next year in Orlando March 31-April 4. This will be huge gathering of professionals and an amazing event. The primary points of interest at this point are that meeting attendees must register for the conference before they register for an official conference hotel. More information about the joint meeting will be coming shortly on the ACPA website, www.myacpa.org. Indianapolis was a great experience and I was privileged to be there on behalf of WCPA. If you should have any questions about the State/International Division meetings or the conference in general, I welcome you to contact me at dsarnows@cc.edu. I hope you all have a successful end to the semester and wish I you the best for the summer.



Congratulations again to the following WCPA Award recipients who were recognized at the 2005 WCPA Fall Conference!

Outstanding Professional Award
Margaret Millspaw,
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Daniel Siler Memorial Scholarship Award
Diana Maki,
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Support Staff Recognition Award

Barbara Cavanagh
Beloit College

ACPA Scholarship Award
Kimberlee Monteaux,
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Program Showcase Award (also presented program at 2006 ACPA Conference)

Katie Van Roosenbeek,
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
Carol Witmer,
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Randy Thrush WCPA Leadership Award
Jennifer Hass,
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

Program Awards
Katie Van Roosenbeek,
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
Lisa Sarnowski,
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

