



Wisconsin College Personnel Association

# WCPA Spring News

Volume 3, Issue 1

## Our State • Our Profession • Endless Opportunities

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### A President's Reflection - by Paul Shepherd

Greetings members of WCPA! It is hard to believe it has been four months since we have last seen each other at the 2008 annual conference! As I reflect back on the conference experience and the work the WCPA executive board has done, I am grateful to call WCPA my professional development home! Several exciting announcements were made at the 2008 annual conference concerning the future of WCPA. As thrilling as these announcements were to share, it is even more thrilling to see them move from ideas to realization.

Any college or university professional who works to educate students can visit <http://www.mywcpa.org> and sign up to become a member of WCPA. Due to our membership initiative, the membership numbers are well over three hundred! I am proud there are three hundred student development professionals in Wisconsin

who are eager to check out WCPA and take advantage of all we have to offer. Our membership has continued to grow since the conference.

Increasing our membership was one part of a larger plan to engage our membership in new ways to get a larger number of people involved in setting the direction of our organization. As I write this note, our first five commissions have begun their work by identifying leaders and making plans for our first commission meetings at the Professional Development Institute (PDI) to be held in April. Please look for opportunities to get involved!

WCPA's efforts to become an official non-profit tax exempt incorporation has also been achieved. This was not an easy road to travel, but with help of legal counsel, we have finally crossed the finish line! Our President, John Palmer, deserves our gratitude for coordi-

nating this important step for our organization.

Beyond these new initiatives, the annual conference provided a great opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and make connections with those new to WCPA! I would like to extend congratulations to all our award winners, speakers, and program presenters for excellent contributions to the conference and our profession. I look forward to seeing you all at future WCPA professional development opportunities.

As I look to the future, I see nothing but continued growth and progress for WCPA! In order to realize our full potential, we need all of our members to get involved in some way to help WCPA become a true reflection of the excellence of its members.

All my best to you!

Paul Shepherd, WCPA Immediate Past President

## Looking for a Professional Development Opportunity within Wisconsin?

Come to WCPA's Annual Professional Development Institute!

**What:** Working with Millennial Students, Staff and their Parents

**When/Where:** April 2, 2009 at UW-Eau Claire

**Why:** Much will be learned, great friends will be made and fun will be had!

**Cost:** \$60 for Professional Staff Registration & \$40 for Graduate Student Registration (breakfast and lunch are included)

**Featuring:**

- Sally Field from Sky's the Limit Coaching & Consulting & Adjunct Professor at UW-River Falls, [www.sallyfield.org](http://www.sallyfield.org)
- UW-Madison's Parent Program with Nancy Sandhu & Patti Lux-Weber, [www.parent.wisc.edu](http://www.parent.wisc.edu)

Register today at: [http://www.mywcpa.org/pdi\\_workshops.php](http://www.mywcpa.org/pdi_workshops.php)

Contact Carolyn Bell at [carolyn.bell@housing.wisc.edu](mailto:carolyn.bell@housing.wisc.edu) with any questions.

## 2008 WCPA Annual Conference Overview - by Angie Bong

The WCPA Annual Conference is both a highlight and a hallmark for the organization, as it provides an opportunity for professionals all over the state to come together for two days to learn, discuss, connect, and grow. The organization continuously strives to provide a more enriching conference experience with every new year, and 2008 was no different. From new partnerships to new commissions, it truly was a new year for the WCPA Annual Conference.

For the first time, WCPA partnered with the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA) for a “Campus Safety: Everyone’s Responsibility”-themed conference. Due to recent and increasing reports of campus violence, both the partnership and theme seemed timely. Member interest was also piqued by this topic, as conference attendance reached 130 members.

The partnership with WCASA provided a valuable opportunity to draw from the expertise of an additional network of individuals in the areas of sexual assault and violence prevention. Combined with the knowledge and talents of WCPA members, program offerings spanned a range of topics from sexual assault basics, to bias incidents, hate crimes, and dating violence, to multidisciplinary approaches to campus safety.

WCPA also expanded partnership opportunities to include the Association for Student Judicial Affairs (ASJA). ASJA hosted their annual statewide meeting on Wednesday afternoon, prior to the official conference start on Thursday.

Thursday was the official conference kick-off, and WCPA was pleased to host several special guest speakers throughout the conference. Former WCPA Past President and award winner Dr. Andrew Luptak, (Vice President of Student Life at Concordia University Wisconsin, Professor of Educational Administration, and Program Director of the Masters Program in Student Personnel Administration) provided the keynote address on Thursday morning. Dr. Scott Hampton, executive director of *Ending the Violence* and founder of *The Consexuality Project*, wrapped up the conference with an informative discussion on the topic of dating and sexual violence in student life. WCPA also welcomed Mariama Boney, Director of Member Initiatives and Constituent Relations for ACPA-College Student Educators International. Mariama presented a breakout session on “Creating Inclusive Campus Communities.”

Throughout the conference, WCPA also had the opportunity to introduce and recruit members for the new WCPA commissions. After a long discussion at the executive board summer retreat, the board decided that it needed to find new and innovative ways to involve the membership in the organization. Following the model of ACPA, the organization sought feedback from WCPA members and created five new commissions, including:

- Diversity and Social Justice
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Professional Development
- Leadership and Involvement
- Graduate Students and New Professionals

Members who signed up to join a commission will begin their work this spring.

*Continued on page 3...*

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university administration with the  
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## ***2008 WCPA Annual Conference Overview (continued)***

A WCPA Annual Conference would not be the same without the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate all those who have made such tremendous contributions to our field, and those who have a bright future ahead. The following individuals were presented with the annual WCPA awards:

### **Program Showcase Award (Best of Show)**

*Sheila Jensen and Kristina Vack, University of Wisconsin - Madison*

### **Program Awards**

*Endeavor Program, Carrie von Bohlen, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee*

*Virtual House Party, David Ohrmund, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee*

### **Undergraduate Student Leader Award 2008**

*Amanda Baxter, University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire*

### **ACPA Scholarship**

*Tara Huss, Marquette University*

### **New Professional of the Year**

*Mary Duckworth, University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire*

### **Support Staff Recognition Award**

*Lindsey Marsch, University of Wisconsin - Madison*

### **Randy Thrush "WCPA Leadership" Award**

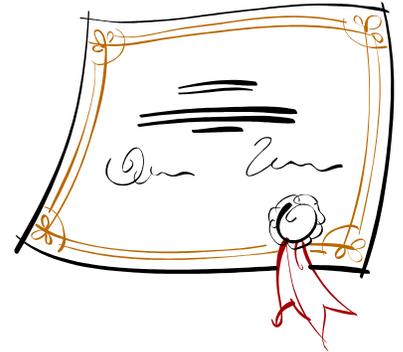
*Matt Suwalski, University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh*

### **Nora McGuire "Outstanding Professional" Award**

*Jacqueline Bonneville, University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire*

### **Annabelle E. Wolfe "Outstanding Service in College Student Personnel" Award**

*Robin Jens, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee*



Finally, the Annual Conference provided us the opportunity to begin shaping the future of bright young students interested in pursuing a career in student affairs. The Student Affairs 101 Paraprofessional Conference boasted over 50 undergraduate registrants from institutions all over the state. A debt of gratitude is owed to the WCPA Past Presidents who dedicated their time to the planning and facilitation of Student Affairs 101.

The 2008 Annual Conference proved to be an exciting and engaging experience once again, and plans for the 2009 conference are already underway. As budgets tighten, WCPA hopes you will consider the affordable professional development opportunity that is available to you here in your home state. We are exploring opportunities to make the 2009 Annual Conference the best yet, so please mark your calendars for October 21-23, 2009, and join us for another great professional development experience.



### **M.Ed. in College Student Personnel**

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 or call (800) 793-6450.

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GRADUATE SCHOOL

## 2009 WCPA Awards! - by Greg Iaccarino

The longstanding tradition of the WCPA Awards is a wonderful opportunity to recognize, thank and acknowledge the deserving individuals and programs that make our profession what it is. Especially during the challenging times that we are in now, it is even more meaningful to take the time to reflect on the excellence of our work and to bestow recognition for it. As WCPA Secretary and Awards Chair, I look forward to facilitating the awards process for 2009 and I also wish to thank Sheila Jensen, who as former WCPA Secretary and Awards Chair, did an excellent job creating a streamlined and organized process that makes it very easy for you to nominate yourself or a very deserving colleague, student or program for a WCPA award.

As an opportunity to help you reflect on the excellence of you and your colleagues during the 2008-2009 academic year (and prior years), the WCPA Executive Board has decided to change the awards nomination/application process from the Fall of 2009 to the Spring of 2009. More specifically, the call for awards nominations will occur between May 1 and June 15, 2009. The Executive Board believes that this will enable you to consider qualified candidates based on your work with them during the just completed academic year. Also, this falls more in line with other awards cycles, which tend to occur more in the Spring (near the end of the academic year).

All awards recipients will still be honored and recognized at the 2009 WCPA Fall Conference in October of 2009 at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. We encourage you to take some time to make someone's day by letting them know you appreciate the work that they do.

### Nominate a Deserving Individual Today!

More information about the awards are on the WCPA website at: <http://www.mywcpa.org/awards.php>

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## Innovative Ways of Getting Professional Development in the Current Budget Times - by John Palmer

Hello WCPA, as we face these challenging budget times it is important for us all to look at other ways to gain professional development. WCPA is committed to providing excellence in professional development at very nominal cost. Our fall conference is where student affairs professionals from all around the state can come together and share ideas. It is our hope with tightening budgets that we can increase our numbers in WCPA to continue to provide quality professional development for years to come at affordable prices. Our professional development institutes or PDIs are a opportunity for a one day drive in workshop in the spring of each year. This year's PDI will be held at UW Eau Claire on April 2, 2009. This year's PDI is on "Working with Millennial Students, Staff and their Parents". If you are interested in registering please go to [mywcpa.org](http://mywcpa.org) to register.

We encourage WCPA members to think about professional opportunities on their own campuses. Often we forget to look at opportunities that exist on our own campus such as book clubs, professional roundtables, article reviews, and of course our in-house professionals expertise on many topic's. The resources we have available at all of our campuses are very valuable. We must remember that in these difficult budget times that we cannot neglect our own professional development. Though we may not be able to attend national conferences, we all have access to national Journal's and articles. Discussions across our professional lines in student affairs can gain us all new perspectives. As professional development financing becomes more difficult, We must remember to utilize each other.



## Fifteen Reads for 2009

These titles were suggested by the presenters and participants at a breakout session entitled *Great Books for 2009*, presented by Anne Arseneau and Karyn Nishimura Sneath, at the 2008 Association of Fraternity Advisors Annual Meeting in Denver, CO.

1. *SWAY: The Irresistible Pull of Irrational Behavior* (Brafman & Brafman)
2. *Small Giants: Companies that Choose to Be Great Instead of Big* (Burlingham)
3. *Bound by a Mighty Vow: Sisterhood & Women's Fraternities, 1870-1920* (Turk)
4. *Guyland: The Perilous World in Which Boys Become Men* (Kimmel)
5. *College Girls: Blue Stockings, Sex Kittens, and Co-Eds, Then and Now* (Peril)
6. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* (Beah)
7. *Orbiting the Giant Hairball: A Corporate Fool's Guide to Surviving with Grace* (MacKenzie)
8. *The Last Lecture* (Pausch & Zaslow)
9. *In a Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day: How to Survive and Thrive when Opportunity Roars* (Batterson)
10. *Never Eat Alone: And Other Secrets to Success, One Relationship at a Time* (Ferrazzi & Raz)
11. *Nineteen Minutes* (Jodi Picoult)
12. *Warriors Don't Cry* (Beals)
13. *The Janitor: How an Unexpected Friendship Transformed a CEO and His Company* (Hopkins & Hilbert)
14. *The Go-Giver: A Little Story about a Powerful Business Idea* (Burg & Mann)
15. *The G Quotient: Why Gay Executives are Excelling as Leaders...And What Every Manager Needs to Know* (Snyder)




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## Book Review - by Matt Suwalski

### BOOK REVIEW: *The Last Lecture* - By Randy Pausch

This book can be a great resource for a staff development, leadership class, or students dealing with difficult obstacles in their lives. It does in some ways confront the real issues of dying, but in a natural way.

After hearing about the "last lecture" on youtube I figured I would explore what this story was about. As I watched the movie of Randy Pausch a Carnegie Mellon professor's last lecture I was moved, not just by the story but by the messages he conveyed. The last lecture traditionally has been a median for professor's who were leaving to impart upon the world the collection of wisdom they had acquired.

Not wanting to divulge too much about the book and ruin your anticipation I will attempt to give a brief overview of topics. In the spirit of the book and Randy's lecture I will begin by addressing the "elephant in the room." While the book is being written Randy has learned that he is expected to live only a few more months being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. The book begins with this introduction and the definition of what the last lecture is. He also highlights the struggles he had between giving the lecture and honoring his wife's wishes of spending as much time as possible with his family.

Essentially the book follows the narrative of Randy explaining his early life before his wife and family and his first successes and challenges. One of his main points is achieving your childhood dreams and what one must do to achieve such a task. He highlights the fact that we "can not change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the hand." As we encounter obstacles to our dreams we must realize that these obstacles are there for a reason.

*Continued on page 6...*

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## ***Book Review (continued)***

Things that we are given easily we may not appreciate as much as those that we truly have to work for. In the case of courting his wife, Randy was persistent and over time worked to overcome obstacles to build a strong relationship and eventually marry the woman he loved. One of the points of achieving our dreams is the fact that we must not forget what we wanted to be or do when we were children.

Here is a collection of the major lessons learned from the book:

### **What not to do:**

- Do not give up striving for your dreams. Even if you do not achieve them, there is still a lot that you can gain out of trying.
- Do not give up when you fail to get what you want. You have gained experience in the process instead.
- Do not give up when you face obstacles in your path. The obstacles are there for a reason. Not to keep you out but rather, let you prove how much you want something.
- Do not feel offended or discouraged when other people point out your mistakes and shortcomings. They do so because they care and want to help you become better. When no one points out to you that you have done a bad job, it just means that all of them have already given up on you.
- Do not complain and whine. Doing so does not help you to solve the problem. Instead, work harder. That will be more helpful to you in the long run.

### **What to do:**

- Always maintain a sense of fun and wonder, no matter how old you are.
- Be optimistic and enthusiastic in all aspects of life.
- Treasure people over things. Human beings and relationships are more valuable than material goods.
- Work and play well with people by:
  - o Telling the truth and living with integrity.
  - o Apologizing properly:
    - ✦ Say: "I am sorry."
    - ✦ Admit: "It was my fault."
    - ✦ Ask: "How do I make it right?" This third part shows sincerity, but is often lacking
  - o Being patient when managing people whom you do not like or work well with. No one is pure evil. Wait long enough, and those people will show you their good side.
- Remember to show gratitude to those who have helped you.
- Live your life the right and proper way, and the larger forces will take care of things. Eventually, your dreams will come to you.

Overall, this book takes you through the long and difficult journey of how a person diagnosed with a terminal disease will work to impart his knowledge and a lifetime of lessons to his three kids. This was the most moving part, the fact that the sole reason he did this was to be able to leave a visual and written account of the lessons he wanted to teach his kids before he passed away. You can see the struggles he is faced with as he works to put his story down on paper. I would encourage you to also watch his lecture to have an understanding and basis to look at the book from (it can be found at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ji5\\_MqicxSo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ji5_MqicxSo)). The main focus and title of the book is "Achieving your childhood dreams."

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## Membership Corner

**Did you recently move to a new position? Did your contact information change?**

**Are some of your colleagues in your office wondering why you got  
this newsletter and they didn't?**

If you answered yes to any of these questions, make sure that your  
WCPA membership information is updated.

Encourage your colleagues to make sure their information is updated too!

**Remember...membership to WCPA is FREE! There is no membership fee!**

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**If you are already a WCPA member**

**and want to update your membership info:**

email Luis Benevoglienti at [benevogl@uww.edu](mailto:benevogl@uww.edu) with your name  
and the updated information.

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**If you or your colleagues, still haven't joined WCPA:**

just go to the WCPA website at <http://www.mywcpa.org/> and click on the Membership  
link and fill out the online form.

### WCPA Executive Board

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