

WCPA News

Spring 2012

Our State • Our Profession • Endless Opportunities

WCPA Updates

Matt Suwalski, WCPA President

In a recent email to our membership I announced that WCPA had been informed that will be recognized at the ACPA Annual Conference with the **Outstanding State & International Division Award** winner. This is a testament to both the hard work and dedication of both our current and past board members. This is also a demonstration of the commitment and support of our active and engaged membership. This award builds upon our success last year when WCPA was recognized for winning the ACPA **Innovation Award** and **Membership Awards**.

It has been our commitment to providing *high quality, low-cost, inclusive professional development opportunities* that has been a pinnacle of our success. Moving forward it has been our commitment to continue to focus on those issues of importance and always seeking our areas of improvement. Our organization has proven itself to be both flexible and responsive to the changing environment. Through the implementation of our 2012 – 2015 Strategic Plan we hope better pre-

pare our organization for sustained success well into the future.

This year the executive board has decided to focus on two main areas of our strategic plan. We will be focusing on:

- Diversifying our event locations and developing outreach initiatives to be more inclusive to 2-year, technical and tribal colleges.
- Develop a recruitment and sustainability plan for board and commission members.

This combined with utilizing key feedback from our past PDI and Fall Conference's will allow us to continue to provide *high quality, low-cost, inclusive professional development opportunities* that our members value from. I look forward to seeing you at the Spring PDI (April 20th @ Steven's Point, WI) or at the 2012 Fall Conference (October 2012 @ Wilderness Hotel & Resort - Wisconsin Dells, WI).

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2011 Annual Conference Overview

Mandy Briggs, 2012 Conference Chair

The 40th Annual WCPA Fall Conference was held from October 19th-21st at the Glacier Canyon Lodge at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells. The 2011 conference brought together nearly 175 undergraduate and graduate students, staff and faculty representing over 25 campuses from around the state of Wisconsin. This year's theme, "Celebrating the Past, Living in the Present, Creating the Future," provided conference attendees an opportunity to learn about the history of the field of student affairs and WCPA as we look toward the future of our profession.

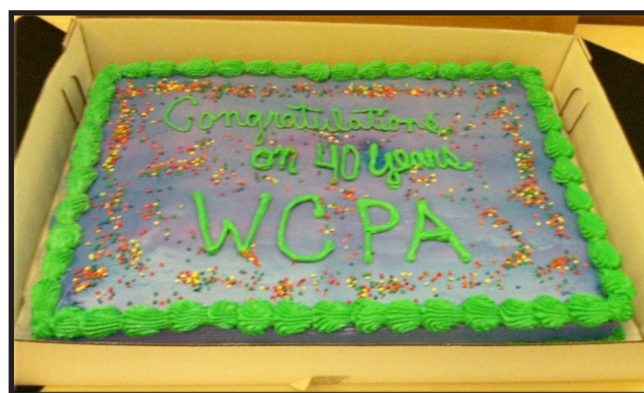
A simple thank you does not seem like enough for all of the hard work that was put forth by conference program presenters, the involvement from WCPA Past Presidents, the WCPA executive board, and each and every one of this year's attendees. We would also like to thank Debbie Ford, Chancellor of University of Wisconsin-Parkside, for serving as this year's keynote speaker. Debbie's story about her journey into the field of student affairs was inspiring to both professionals and students.

Highlights from this year's conference include:

- Continued partnership with the Association for Student Conduct Administrators (ASCA), who hosted a statewide meeting in conjunction with the conference.
- "Make it Experiential! Workshop Design and Facilitation Tools for College Personnel." A pre-conference half-day workshop presented by Amy Climer and hosted by the Leadership and Involvement Commission. A big "thank you" to Shannon Gerke Corrigan for organizing this successful event!
- Congratulations to Brenda Rust O'Beirne, Ph.D., as her presentation, "Professional Vitality – for Always!," was chosen as WCPA's Outstanding Program.
- A graduate student case study competition that provided students the opportunity to showcase their skills and knowledge. Winners of the competition received Amazon.com gift cards. Another "thank you" to Sheila Keaton for organizing this

professional development opportunity!

- As Past Presidents shared WCPA stories and memories throughout the conference, we were reminded of how much of an asset our colleagues in the field are to us professionally and personally. Working in the field of Student Affairs allows us to build strong and lasting connections.
- One very poorly decorated cake!



Keeping with tradition, the end of the WCPA annual conference marked the beginning of the Student Affairs 101 conference. Approximately 60 undergraduate students participated in this opportunity and were able to learn more about the field and graduate program opportunities. Thank you to all of the session presenters and graduate school representatives for helping guide these students.

As we begin to prepare for the 2012 Annual WCPA Fall Conference we ask that you **share** your WCPA story with your colleagues and encourage them to get involved in our organization. **Join** WCPA on **October 11th and 12th**, as we find common **links** and **unite** to develop professionally and personally. This year's conference is about **relating** to our colleagues and students and **tying** and **fusing** our experiences and ideas to today's practices. So save the date and get ready to **connect**!

Coming Home to WCPA

Joseph Haferman, Treasurer

After spending four years in Illinois for both graduate school and working professionally coming home to Wisconsin was both comforting personally and refreshing professionally. The transition back was comforting personally as I was again close to family and friends, and more importantly the Green Bay Packers.

Professionally, moving back to Wisconsin meant coming home to WCPA and finding new opportunities for professional growth and development outside of my work at UW-Eau Claire. I had only attended WCPA, and the Student Affairs 101 Conference, once before while an undergraduate student at UW-La Crosse while considering entering the student affairs field. So, once back in state for full time employment I wasted no time signing up for my free WCPA membership and then registering for the fall conference.

The opportunities that WCPA offers through the fall conference, as well as other opportunities as the Professional Development Institute in April, will be important to me as I look to continue my own personal and professional development. The fact that WCPA offers these opportunities at low cost and centrally located means that I can find the time to get away from work to refresh myself on best practices or to confer with colleagues from around the state without using up too much of the limited dollars budgeted for development in these tough budget times.

There are also more opportunities available, from joining one of the many commissions, to chairing a commission, to being elected to the WCPA Board. So, coming home to Wisconsin has been good for me by reconnecting with WCPA and becoming its treasurer; WCPA allows me to give back to the profession while I continue to develop myself.

Counseling, Adult & Higher Education Program (CAHE)

CAHE is committed to the best practices in the preparation and continuing education of professionals in the fields of counseling, adult education, and higher education through the understanding of theoretical models applied to practical applications. Areas of study within the Adult & Higher Education program include Student Affairs & Higher Education, Adult Continuing Education, Community Development, International, and Popular Education. The Counseling program offers Mental Health & School Counseling.

Northern Illinois University Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

The Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management is comprised of five Communities of Practice that include Diversity & Equity, Living & Learning, Student Life, Student Services, and Enrollment Management. The Division consists of 24 departments that provide student services, programs, and facilities in areas of academic support, student organizations, multicultural education and support, and leadership development.

GSARP GRADUATE STUDENT & ASSISTANTSHIP RECRUITMENT PROGRAM

The Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management and the Counseling, Adult & Higher Education Program collaborate to host GSARP. This two-day program allows students to meet with faculty and staff members within the CAHE department and interview for graduate assistantships within the Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management. To learn more and to register for the GSARP weekend, visit www.gsarp.niu.edu

GA Experience Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

Once students become graduate assistants in the Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management, they become part of the GA Experience. The GA Experience includes access to GA-specific, competency-based professional development programs as well as web, social network, and presentation resources. GAs also have opportunities to serve on Division-wide committees through their assistantship positions.



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Linsanity to Tebowmania: What Student Affairs Professionals Can Learn from Sports Stars

Jason Bertrand, Communications and Social Media Coordinator

Student Affairs professionals are a rare breed. We typically get into this field because we loved our higher education experience almost as much as we enjoy helping others. Student Affairs professionals are in natural leadership roles and because of this we are looked up to by colleagues, parents, and students everywhere. We are willing to be in a fish bowl allowing students to see how we respond to our daily tasks and unique surprises. There are many similarities when it comes to professional sport stars.

Jeremy Lin is recently one of the most famous faces in sports with his incredible story. The Harvard graduate has went from sleeping on his brothers' couch and sitting the bench one week to leading the New York Knicks basketball team to a six game winning streak and acquiring a brand new contract the next. "Linsanity" has ensued in the past few weeks because of this heartwarming story.

Tim Tebow is a polarizing personality who relies on his faith to lead his personal and professional life. Tebow has quieted the critics on every step to his journey to become a starting quarterback in the NFL. Many kids and adults alike see him as a great leader on and off the field.

Both of these men offer plenty to watch on their respective playing surfaces, but can we as Student Affairs professionals learn a lesson from these men as well? That decision is up to you.

Tebow and Lin rose to stardom very quickly due mostly to their athletic ability, but I want to focus on their unique personality traits that they hold. Both men have a work ethic that can be characterized as nothing sort of crazy. These men can be seen before and after practice working on polishing their skills and well as having off season routines that are tough enough to make a person was to pass out just watching them; all without saying a word. I know plenty of Student Affairs professionals that are very similar, but some that can talk all day long about how they came in early to get some work done. I appreciate the people who choose to follow Tebow and Lin's lead here by working hard and keeping quiet.

Tebow and Lin are both known for their passing abilities, but they are also great at passing credit to their teammates. After scoring 27 points, making 11 assists, and hitting a game winning shot in their sixth straight win,

Jeremy Lin pushed off the hype and passed the praise to his teammates, "It's not because of me, it's because we're coming together as a team." This humble approach also makes your colleagues feel valued and appreciated.

Lastly, these men both have a faith system that can easily offend others, but they stand for their beliefs. No matter your spiritual beliefs, you can't help but respect these men for standing up for something that they believe in. As we work on our college campuses, we can continue to stand up for what we hold dear to our hearts and not give in to the temptations we face daily, even if we are being criticized for our actions.

Reflect, stand firm, and persevere is the message they are sending. We have hundreds, if not thousands of students on our college campuses that are looking for a role model and hero; don't let them down.

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2011 WCPA Award Recipients

Angie Bong, WCPA Past President

Each year, WCPA is pleased to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of colleagues and institutions around the state. Congratulations to all of the 2011 recipients! The following awards were presented at the 2011 Fall Conference:

Randy Thrush WCPA Leadership Award

The Randy Thrush WCPA Leadership Award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and service to the Wisconsin College Personnel Association.

Recipient: Matt Suwalski, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

WCPA Annabelle E. Wolf Outstanding Service Award

The Annabelle E. Wolf Award for Outstanding Service in College Student Personnel is presented to an individual who has contributed significantly to and/or within the college student personnel profession.

Recipient: Gregg Heinselman, University of Wisconsin-River Falls

WCPA Nora McGuire Outstanding Professional Award

The Nora McGuire Outstanding Professional Award is designed to recognize an outstanding professional who has served the student affairs field.

Recipient: Melissa Luedtke, University of Wisconsin-Fond du Lac

WCPA New Professional Award

The WCPA New Professional Award is designed to recognize and encourage contributions and / or potential in the field of student affairs by an ambitious and dedicated new professional.

Recipient: Katy Rand, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

WCPA Support Staff Recognition Award

The Support Staff Recognition Award is designed to show appreciation to one of the support staff members on campuses in Wisconsin.

Recipient: Ellie Maslowski, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

Daniel Siler Memorial Student Scholarship

The Daniel Siler Memorial Student Scholarship was established by the WCPA Executive Board in February of 1993 as a tribute to Daniel Siler, who died in November 1991, in memory of his strong belief and commitment to student development. This award is given to a full-time graduate student wishing to enhance their own potential through attendance at the WCPA annual fall conference.

Recipient: Miranda Panzer, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Undergraduate Student Leader Award

The Undergraduate Student Leader Award is presented to an undergraduate student leader who is enrolled in a college or university in Wisconsin and has demonstrated leadership, contributed to student affairs on his/her campus, and has a desire to begin a professional career in Student Affairs.

Recipient: Sarah Tweedale, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

WCPA Program Award

The WCPA Program Award recognizes outstanding programs and events on Wisconsin campuses. Up to two program awards are given each year.

Recipient: Mike Altekruze, *The N-Word: What Does it Mean Today?*, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

WCPA Showcase Award

The WCPA Showcase Award is given to the outstanding program presented at the WCPA fall conference. The winner of the award has their program submitted for the ACPA annual conference.

Recipient: Brenda Rust O'Beirne, *Professional Vitality – For Always!*, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

YOUR CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT NETWORK

The diagram illustrates the OrgSync network with a central laptop icon labeled 'OrgSync'. Surrounding it are icons and text representing various benefits: 'SAVE TIME' (clock icon), 'COLLECT DATA' (pie chart icon), 'GROW MEMBERS' (person icon), 'SAVE PAPER' (stack of papers icon), 'SAVE MONEY' (piggy bank icon), 'PLAN EVENTS' (calendar icon with '31'), and 'SAVE TIME' (clock icon). Below the diagram, the OrgSync logo is followed by the tagline 'Get Involved.' and the website 'www.orgsync.com | 972.907.0900'.

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Professional Development Institute: Creating a Culture of Civility and Responsibility

Peter Rejto, President Elect

rejttop@uwec.edu, 715-836-5528.

Student affairs professionals play a significant role in creating and maintaining a campus culture that embraces equity, diversity, and inclusivity. If we are successful, this culture promotes an educational environment that is civil, supportive and nurturing. The alternative is a climate that breeds bullying, hostility, and intimidation.

The challenge for our profession is to gain the knowledge and tools to put positive values into practice, which is precisely what this year's Professional Development Institute (P.D.I.) is designed to provide you. In order to help each of you meet the challenges of creating a campus culture that is values based, WCPA is excited to announce this year's professional Development Institute's topic: "Creating a Culture of Civility and Responsibility."

We are pleased to announce that our keynote speaker for this year is Dr. Karen Heikel. Dr. Heikel serves as Assistant Vice Chancellor for the Division of Lifelong Learning and Community Engagement at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. Dr. Heikel is also a member of the Oshkosh Civility Project Core Team, which is committed to "build a stronger and more diverse community by actively sharing our ideas



Dr. Karen Heikel, Vice Chancellor for the Division of Lifelong Learning and Community Engagement at UW Oshkosh

and opinions with others in thoughtful and considerate ways. By practicing this basic commitment to civility, we learn and grow from one another – even in disagreement."

Topics for this year's PDI include professional responsibility; how to create a culture of civility on campus; ethical decision making, bystander intervention; and legal responsibilities.

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Book Club: The Introvert Advantage

Maigan Wipfli, Conference Chair Elect

The WCPA Professional Development Commission sponsored its 2nd Annual Book Club featuring The Introvert Advantage: How to Thrive in an Extrovert World by Marti Olsen Laney. This year, we sponsored 10 books to participants who requested books beforehand (or for you lucky few who were first through the door during our session).

Whether participants had read the book before the conference or not the session was AMAZING! Everyone had great comments and insights to share.

Some of the questions the round table discussed were: How do you “recharge your batteries”?; What assumptions have other people made about you if you are an introvert or extrovert?; How does your work culture help or hinder your introversion or extroversion?; and more.

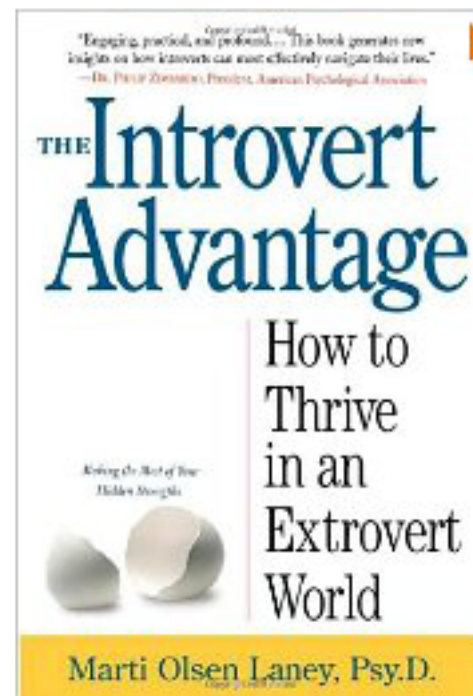
But it didn't stop there!

One point was brought forth about Student Affairs being an *Extrovert World* whether its inhabitants are or not. We talked about what it is like to be forced into extroversion (and for the extroverts in the room- it was an eye opener!)

I strongly recommend this book for anyone who is, works with, or knows anyone who is an introvert. As the author writes “It took me years to discover that all of my puzzling contradictions actually made sense. I was a normal introvert. This discovery brought me great relief” (3).

On a related note APPLY TO BE A COMMISSION CHAIR! It's a great networking tool and really fun. And.. if you end up being the PD Chair keep the Book Club- everyone seems to enjoy it!

Another shameless plug as the 2012 Conference Chair Elect- Come to the Conference Oct 11th and 12th. With a theme of “Get Connected... Stay Connected” it's one you don't want to miss!

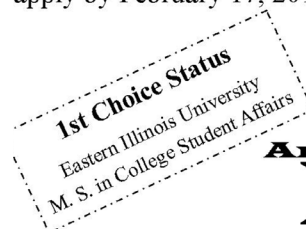


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<http://www.ediu.edu/~csd>

College Student Affairs interview days provides an opportunity for candidates to the CSA program to be interviewed by faculty members for admission and with campus supervisors for graduate assistantships. Candidates will also have an opportunity to interact with current students and professionals on campus. Candidates must apply by February 17, 2012.



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