



Wisconsin College Personnel Association

# WCPA Summer News

Volume 3, Issue 2

## Our State • Our Profession • Endless Opportunities

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### A Message from our President - by John Palmer

Hello, I hope you are enjoying summer and getting some much needed rest and relaxation after a busy school year. I am very excited about our upcoming WCPA Fall Conference this year on October 22 and 23<sup>rd</sup>. I hope all of you are considering presenting a program for the conference. We again will host the conference

at the wonderful Wisconsin Dells Chula Vista Resort and Water Park. The board is very excited about adding a meeting for our commission chairs this year at the conference on October 21. It is my hope that many of you join a commission and help with the valuable work they are doing. It is exciting that this year

we are announcing our two preliminary dates for our spring 2010 PDI. It will be on either April 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>. We are very excited to be hosted by UW - Milwaukee this year. I hope to see everyone at our WCPA events this year!

John Palmer  
WCPA President



## SAVE THE DATE!

## WCPA Annual Conference

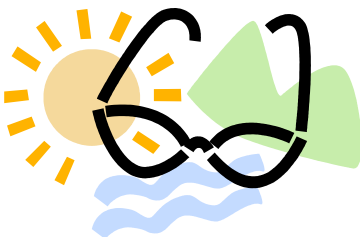
**“Improving Our Practice, Renewing Our Passion”**

October 22-23, 2009

Chula Vista Theme Resort  
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

Visit [mywcpa.org](http://mywcpa.org) for more information

**CALL FOR PROGRAMS INFORMATION  
IN THIS NEWSLETTER!!!**



## 2009 WCPA Annual Conference Call For Programs - by Jon Cleveland

We're excited to announce the 2009 WCPA Fall Conference, which will be happening on October 22-23rd at the Chula Vista Resort in the Wisconsin Dells! We are currently looking for program submissions. In line with this year's conference theme, "Improving Our Practice, Renewing Our Passion", we are hoping for a broad range of program topics that could include current issues in student affairs and higher education, best practices, skill development, and any other relevant topics. Please support the organization by submitting program proposals and encouraging others to do so too! **Program proposals are due Monday, August 31st!** Program proposal instructions can be found now at [www.mywcpa.org](http://www.mywcpa.org). Keep checking the WCPA website for conference registration, schedule, and hotel information, which will be coming soon!

## Call for Nominations and Applications for WCPA Awards and Scholarships - by Greg Iaccarino

The longstanding tradition of the WCPA Awards and Scholarships 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 an opportunity to help you reflect, acknowledge and celebrate the excellence of your colleagues, students and programs, the WCPA Executive Board decided to open up the nomination period this summer for the WCPA Awards and Scholarships.

The nomination and application period will run through a priority deadline Friday, August 21, 2009. You are invited to nominate deserving colleagues, students and programs!

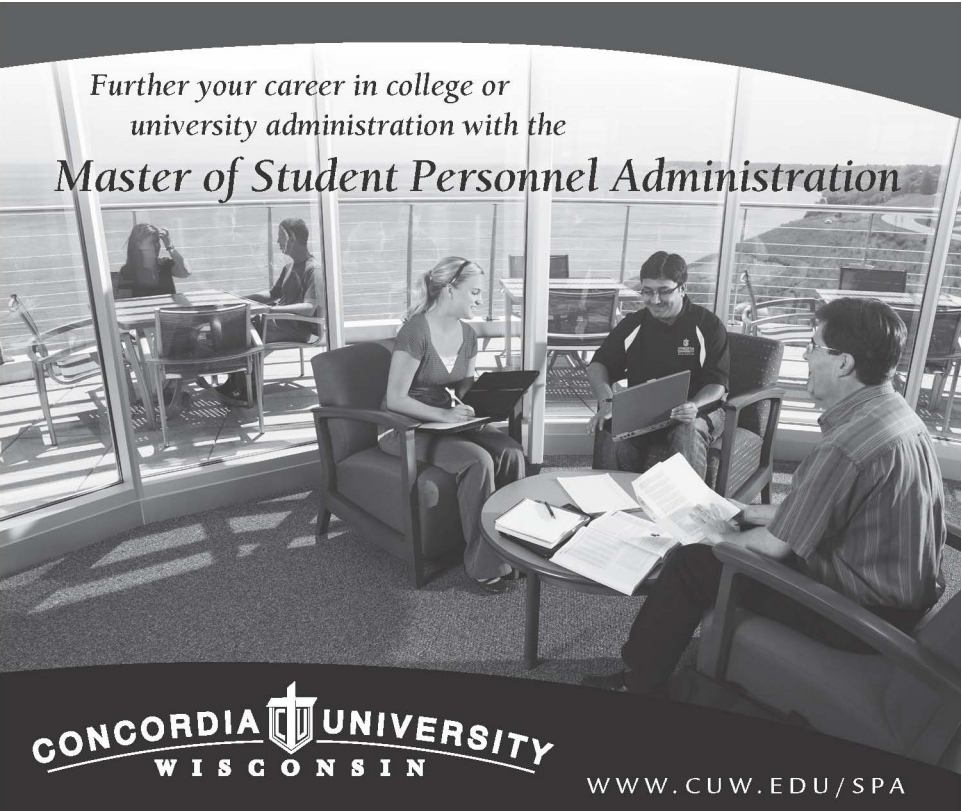
You can even nominate yourself for one of our scholarships (and win a WCPA conference registration fee waiver or ACPA conference registration fee waiver).

Award and scholarship candidates will then be selected and formally honored at the awards and scholarship ceremony at the 2009 WCPA Fall Conference in October.

The WCPA Awards process is now a very streamlined and efficient process that is done online.

Complete information and instructions about the nomination and application process for each award is at:  
<http://www.mywcpa.org/awards.php>

We encourage you to take some time to make someone's day by letting them know you appreciate the work that they do. A number of the WCPA scholarships include a WCPA conference registration fee waiver or ACPA conference registration fee waiver!



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## Student Affairs 101 - by Paul Shepherd

Planning for the 2009 Student Affairs 101 undergraduate conference has been well underway. The conference is scheduled for Friday October 23 – Saturday October 24, 2009. Many of our WCPA Past Presidents are working diligently to update the program array and offering some new experiences for students who will attend the conference. Our undergraduate students will have an excellent opportunity this year to interact with our keynote speaker Dr. Elizabeth Whitt who is a distinguished faculty member in the Higher Education program at the University of Iowa.

Student Affairs 101 will also provide participants opportunities to meet other students interested in student affairs from across the state. The program sessions will be designed for students who are just exploring the possibility to entering the profession and students who have already made the decision to pursue a career in student affairs. Registration information and a complete schedule will be available on the WCPA website as details become final.

Please invest in the future of our profession by inviting undergraduate students at your institution who are interested in pursuing a career in student affairs to attend Student Affairs 101! It promises to be an experience they will never forget.

## WCPA Elections - by Paul Shepherd

WCPA will be holding elections for several key executive board positions in the early fall. The executive board strongly encourages all members of WCPA to consider running for any of our open executive board positions. A call for nominations and self nominations will be e-mailed to the membership later this summer by our Immediate Past President Paul Shepherd. Once nominations have been gathered, an official ballot will be emailed to all members on September 10, 2009. Members will have 30 days to vote for the candidate of their choice. The new executive board members will officially assume their duties at the 2009 WCPA Fall Conference October 22-23.

The open positions are:

- President Elect – One year term as President Elect then an additional two years as President and Immediate Past President
- Secretary – Two year term
- Treasurer – One year term
- Conference Chair Elect – One year term as Chair Elect then an additional year as Conference Chair. The Conference Chair Elect position is appointed by WCPA President John Palmer

Complete position descriptions for the open positions are available on the WCPA website at the following link

<http://www.mywcpa.org/download.php#Positions>

Please consider nominating a colleague or yourself for one of the executive board positions when the call for nominations is emailed later this summer. Any questions can be directed to WCPA Immediate Past President Paul Shepherd by emailing [shephepr@uwec.edu](mailto:shephepr@uwec.edu)



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GRADUATE SCHOOL

## 2009 WCPA PDI A Success! - by Carolyn Bell

On April 2, 2009, WCPA hosted a Professional Development Institute in Eau Claire, WI at UW-Eau Claire. We made a conscious decision to try something new and host a professional development opportunity on the western part of the state. As a result, we received positive feedback that folks appreciated us coming to the west. One attendee shared, "Thanks so much for coming to this side (west) of the state...it was wonderful! Please do it again, I'd love to see more events and dates in this area."

The title of the PDI was "Working with Millennial Students, Professional Staff and Their Parents." There were nearly 40 participants, including attendees and presenters. One of the keynote speakers was Sally Field an Adjust Professor at UW -River Falls and owner of Sky's the Limit Coaching & Consulting who shared her own cross-generational stories and experiences. There were also 3 breakout sessions that ranged in topics from working with millennial students to navigating the work world as a Millennial. The UW-Madison Parent Program also presented and shared some innovative ideas regarding how they work with parents. Many attendees shared that they enjoyed the great dialogue from that day.

There are plans for the 2010 Professional Development to occur in the Eastern part of the state in early April. Please keep a look-out for more information on that professional development opportunity.

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## Commission Corner

In an effort to provide additional opportunities for WCPA members to become more involved in our organization, the following commissions were established:

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

In each newsletter, the commissions will have the opportunity to provide commission updates, write newsletter articles, have suggested readings, etc.

Watch for the Commission Corner to read about what is going on with the Commission that you are a part of or learn about the different areas of Student Affairs and the topics that are currently being discussed in the respective areas of our field.

In this debut of the Commission Corner, you will be introduced to different aspects of each Commission.

If you want to join a Commission, just go to the WCPA website and find out more.

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## *Diversity and Social Justice Commission*

### ***About the Commission Chair:***

Mai J. Lo Lee is a multicultural adviser at the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay in Green Bay, Wisconsin. She is a certified Stop the Hate trainer and active in the Wisconsin College Personnel Association and the Asian Pacific Americans for Progress. Her research interests include leadership development, multicultural competency, women's studies and social justice issues.

### ***Commission Information and Updates:***

WCPA Diversity & Social Justice Commission has a commitment to diversity and social justice. WCPA Diversity & Social Justice Commission strives to provide model programs and services regarding diversity and social justice in the student affairs profession. WCPA Diversity & Social Justice Commission is currently working on a resource page which will provide a network directory and diversity and social justice conferences.

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## **Commission Corner (continued)**

### ***Diversity and Social Justice Commission (continued)***

A suggested read from the commission is the article titled, ***Orientation for Whites***. This article was featured on the Inside Higher Education website and was posted on April 13, 2009. The link to the website is below.

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2009/04/13/holyoke>

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### ***Mental and Behavioral Health Commission***

A suggested read from the commission is the article titled, ***College students increasingly seek mental health counseling - Universities seek way to pay for demand***. This article was featured in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin Journal Sentinel and was posted on September 24, 2008. The link to the website is below.

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/education/32492609.html>

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### ***Professional Development Commission***

The Wisconsin College Professional Association (WCPA) is dedicated to providing conferences, workshops, and leadership opportunities that support professional development in student affairs. As a continuing part of this commitment, WCPA has established 5 new commissions including the Professional Development Commission.

This is an exciting period and an ideal time for joining colleagues as part of the Professional Development Commission while we develop and refine our mission and goals. A few of the goals still under discussion include: the development of a profile of student affairs professionals by functional area; establishment of a baseline for new professionals; a comparison of professional development opportunities by school; and serving as a resource for formal and informal developmental initiatives.

Since we realize that availability and interest may vary by member, we anticipate multiple levels of involvement that could include research, publication, networking, and program planning and presentations. Not only do we intend to provide information on best practices in professional development, but we anticipate that involvement in the Commission would offer significant professional development opportunities for its members as well.

If you are interested in joining or would like some additional information please contact Peter Rejto, the Professional Development Commission Chair, at [rejttop@uwec.edu](mailto:rejttop@uwec.edu).

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### ***Leadership and Involvement Commission***

A suggested read from the commission is the article titled, ***College Student Capacity for Socially Responsible Leadership: Understanding Norms and Influences of Race, Gender, and Sexual Orientation***. This article was featured in the NASPA Journal, 2008, Vol. 45, no. 4. Typically, you do need to have a NASPA Membership to access the journal. You could have someone on your campus, who can provide you access to the article.



## **Commission Corner (continued)**

### ***Graduate Students and New Professionals Commission***

#### **About the Commission Chair:**

Hi, I'm Ashlie Kohl and I am the Graduate Student and New Professionals Commission Chair. This commission has been established to help graduate students and new professionals from around the state of Wisconsin connect and share ideas or information with one another. While the first commission meeting will take place at our annual October conference, a facebook group has been established to help us connect and communicate before the conference. The URL for that group is <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=104412517574>. I encourage anyone who is interested in this commission to become a member of our facebook group. In addition, if you have questions or would like more information about this commission please feel free to contact me at [kohl@mio.uwosh.edu](mailto:kohl@mio.uwosh.edu).

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#### **Words of Wisdom for New Professionals**

#### **- by Ashlie Kohl, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Graduate Student and New Professional Commission Chair**

Whether you're graduating college and are about to begin your first full time professional job, beginning a new graduate assistantship, or have switched career paths, you are about to begin a new stage in your life. As you begin this new stage, I wanted to share some words of wisdom or things that I have learned along my journey as a new Student Affairs Professional.

#### **Believe in yourself and share your ideas!**

You were selected for your position because you have talents and skills that will enhance the services that your office provides for students. Your ideas, no matter how silly they seem in your head, may serve as the catalyst for the next great program.

#### **Remember you're in a new position!**

While it is great to share your ideas and opinions, remember that you are in a new position and possibly at a new school. Therefore, while you should use your experience from your past positions to offer insight, remember that what worked at one place may not work at another. To me, nothing is worse than a professional who always says "At my last school we ..." While you should be grateful for and use your past experience, remain open to new ways of doing things.

#### **Don't take things personally.**

If you are clear, concise, inclusive, flexible, creative, and encouraging then you have done all that you can. There are some students (and every once in awhile some co-workers) who just don't get it and who will never get it. That is not always your fault. Chalk it up to a learning experience and continue to use your skills for good!

#### **Work-Life Balance**

While I am sure that many people have talked to you about having and maintaining work-life balance, it is important to evaluate your own life and decide if you really have work-life balance. In order to make sure that you are taking enough "you" time, I would recommend getting involved within the community, finding a new hobby, or discussing the importance of having work-life balance with a close friend, family member or significant other. This person can then help you balance your life, making sure that you are taking enough "you" time. As a Student Affairs professional it is easy to get burnt out; therefore by maintaining a healthy work-life balance you are actively working to avoid becoming burnt out.

*Continued on page 7...*

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## ***Words of Wisdom for New Professionals (continued)***

### **Network!**

It is nice to go to state, regional, or national conferences and connect with your friends from graduate school, but there are also a lot of professionals out there who you have yet to meet. Don't be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone and introduce yourself to someone new. You might be surprised to learn that you have something in common or they know someone that you know. Furthermore, you never know when you may run into these individuals in the future.

### **Try to avoid the "Pack Rat" syndrome.**

Documentation and the all-mighty paper trail are important in our work, especially when it comes to writing end of the year reports. However, you don't need to keep every piece of paper that crosses your desk. Develop a filing system early in your career that works for you and stick with it. The same goes for e-mail. While we are given lots of mailbox room, I hope you are not using all that room. Don't be afraid to delete e-mails! In addition, like you developed a filing system for your paperwork, do so within your e-mail.

### **Have Fun!**

It is safe to say that Student Affairs is not a field that you go into for the money. Therefore, while it's important to work hard, it is also very important to play hard. Incorporate fun and things that you enjoy into your every day work activities. This will make going to work that much more enjoyable!

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## **Membership Corner - by Luis Benevoglienti**

Hello to all! I am writing to provide some updates and initiatives in regards to the WCPA Membership.

First of all, an update on our membership numbers - we are currently at 385 registered WCPA members. This is a considerable boost ever since we eliminated the Membership Fee almost two years ago. When we made this transition, we had asked that our members re-register with us through the membership form which is online on the WCPA website. After a review of the membership lists before and after the transition, we found that not everyone had re-registered. This leads us to our first initiative - bringing back the "lost" members of WCPA. We will be sending out emails to those professionals in the field who may have been registered with us at one point in time to see if they would like to continue to be part of our organization. We do not consider this spam! We just want to give those professionals the opportunity to remain connected with other professionals in the state and the organization at large.

Second of all, a new WCPA brochure will be placed on the website soon. This is just another way to better market ourselves as an organization.

In this time of budget cuts, travel freezes, etc., we are fortunate to have such a strong state organization that allows us to connect as student affairs professionals across all areas not just one specialized area. We can all learn from each other no matter which department we work with or if we come from a UW System school, private college, technical college, etc. Ultimately, it's about the students and other constituents that we serve. We must also remember to maintain our balance and as we progress in our own personal and professional growth.

We hope to offer those professional development opportunities through discussions on current topics and issues, newsletter articles, conference programs, etc. We hope to expand on that through our Commissions and the work that they do and the opportunity they provide for members to feel more invested and connected in the work that WCPA does.



**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.**




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## **WCPA Executive Board**

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President  
UW-Oshkosh

**Paul Shepherd**  
Past President  
UW-Eau Claire

**Carolyn Bell**  
President-Elect  
UW-Madison

**Carolyn Bell**  
Interim Treasurer  
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**Matt Suwalski**  
Technology & Communications  
Coordinator  
UW-Oshkosh

**Amanda Hebert**  
Commission Assistant  
(Ad Hoc Appointment)  
UW-Milwaukee

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