



Wisconsin College Personnel Association

WCPA Winter News

Volume 4, Issue 1

Our State • Our Profession • Endless Opportunities

Inside this issue:

2009 WCPA Annual Conference Overview	2
A Message from our President	3
Silent Auction Recognition	4
Recap of 2009 WCPA Awards and Scholarships	4
Commission Corner	8
On the Merits of LinkedIn in Comparison to Facebook	10
Student Affairs 101 - A Student's Reflection	10
Membership Corner	11
WCPA Executive Board	11

A President's Reflection - by John Palmer

Hello WCPA!

It was a great experience this past year serving as your WCPA President. As I look back over the past year WCPA had many positive accomplishments. WCPA gained the highest membership we have ever had thanks to you, we had a wonderful Fall Conference brought to us by Angie Bong and Jon Cleveland, and we had a successful year with our commissions. It was a honor and a privilege to serve this past year. I want to thank our executive board for all the hard work they did and continue to do. I also want to thank all of you for making WCPA such a special group to be a part of.

I am very excited to start planning Student Affairs 101 for our next fall conference. I will be calling on many of our past presidents to help with this endeavor. Please think about student leaders you work with that would be interested in a career in student affairs and let them know about this opportunity.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be President of WCPA! Happy New Year!

-John Palmer, WCPA Immediate Past President

SAVE THE DATE

WCPA Professional Development Institute

Student Learning: Building Student Affairs Capacity for Academic Collaboration

Featuring Keynote Speakers

Aaron M. Brower, Ph.D.

Professor and Vice Provost for Teaching & Learning

University of Wisconsin - Madison

Cal Bergman

Associate Director of Residence Life / Director of Academic Initiatives

University of Wisconsin - Madison

Friday, April 16, 2010

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

More information coming soon to www.mywcpa.org.

2009 WCPA Annual Conference Overview - by Jon Cleveland

2009 marked another successful year for WCPA, culminating in the largest professional development opportunity within the organization: our annual fall conference. Held on October 22nd and 23rd at Chula Vista Resort in the Wisconsin Dells, the 2009 conference brought together nearly 150 undergraduate and graduate students, staff, and faculty (representing approximately twenty five campuses) from around the state of Wisconsin. The theme of the conference, "Improving Our Practice, Renewing Our Passion" stemmed from the idea that during the current fiscal climate with tighter budgets and shrinking resources, it is important for us to stay engaged in professional development, continue participating in the professional activities that initially drew us to the field, and find ways to improve the work we do.

A major contribution to the great success of this year's conference was the broad line-up of program session offerings, as well as the many talented faculty members and staff that put forth the time to present! Many of these presenters were new to WCPA (including several faculty members from private Wisconsin institutions and practitioners newly relocating from other states), and we certainly hope they continue their relationship with WCPA this year and join us for the 2010 conference. Dr. Pamela Peters from Cardinal Stritch University was voted as having the best program by participants in the conference. Her presentation was titled "Understanding the Strengths of First-Generation Students as a Strategy for Nurturing Success."

Dr. Elizabeth Whitt was this year's keynote speaker. Dr. Whitt works at The University of Iowa as the Director of Student Success Initiatives in the Office of the Provost, professor in the Graduate Programs in Student Affairs, and Co-Director of the Center for Research on Undergraduate Education. Her presentation examined research about effective partnership practices and considered ways to address barriers to collaboration between academic and student affairs.

The 2009 conference also devoted time for members of our various commissions (Graduate Student and New Professionals, Diversity and Social Justice, Mental Health and Behavioral Health, Leadership Development and Involvement, and Professional Development) to come together, as well as opportunities for all members to become involved in a commission. The commissions have all grown from the previous year and we hope that people continue to get involved and find ways to make meaningful contributions.

There were several additional conference highlights including our continued partnership with the Association for Student Conduct Administrators (ASCA), which hosted a statewide meeting in conjunction with the conference. We also appreciate our continued relationship with Concordia University Wisconsin's Master of Student Personnel Administration Program, whose students and staff had a strong presence at the conference and hosted an evening social. Thanks to our additional partners as well! Our Silent Auction raised approximately five hundred dollars for Student Affairs 101 scholarships, too!

As in year's past, the end of the WCPA annual conference also marked the opening of the Student Affairs 101 Conference. In 2009, we welcomed approximately 75 future student affairs professionals. The Student Affairs 101 Conference underwent some significant changes in 2009, allowing participants to choose "tracks" to follow in accordance with their level of interest in the field:

Continued on page 3...

Wisconsin College Personnel Association

www.mywcpa.org

 **SAVE THE DATE!**

Please save the date for the

2010 WCPA Annual Fall Conference

October 21-22, 2010

Wilderness Resort

Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin



2009 WCPA Annual Conference Overview (continued)

“Exploring” (thinking of a career in student affairs), “Committed” (committed to a career in student affairs in the future), and “Searching” (committed to a career in student affairs and currently searching for a job or graduate program). This format change allows participants to more easily gain new information if they choose to attend over multiple years, as well as gives them information most relevant to where they are in their development.

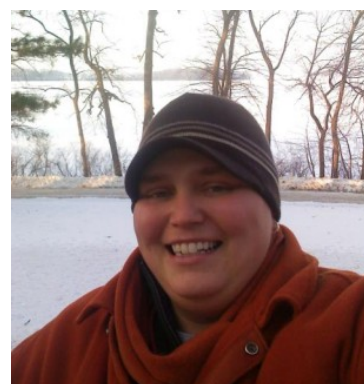
Please mark your calendars now and join us for another great professional development opportunity. We are excited to be moving to a new location for 2010, which will be held at the Wilderness Resort in the Wisconsin Dells on October 22nd and 23rd! With the gorgeous 56,000 square foot conference center, lodging in the new Glacier Canyon Lodge, four indoor water parks, indoor mini-golf, and bumper boats, this is sure to be a conference to remember!

A Message From Our President - by Carolyn Bell

Greetings WCPA Members!

I hope you have found some time to relax, spend time with family/friends and some ways to enjoy the snow over the past few months. For me, snow is one of things I love about living in Wisconsin. I love the way it looks when it is first coming down. It also can be one of the things I dislike about living in Wisconsin, especially when traveling. It just depends on the day and how much of rushing around I am doing.

When looking into the 2009-10 WCPA year, there are many things to celebrate including a very sound and stable budget. During times of furloughs and a state budget that is in disarray, it is something I am very proud of as a past WCPA Treasurer and now as the current President. It is a large compliment to you, our members, and the WCPA Executive Board. We also hosted an amazing conference with top-notch program ratings from our attendees. In response to our member feedback, we are moving the 2010 Conference to the Wilderness - Glacier Canyon Lodge & Conference Center (located in the WI Dells) and are looking forward to this new location. The WCPA Board had a chance to tour this facility in December and believe it will enhance our conference attendees' experience.



Do you want to get more involved with WCPA? I encourage you to consider joining one of WCPA's five commissions:

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

By joining a Commission you will have a chance to write a newsletter article, present at the conference with a colleague from another institution, have discussions with a cross-section of Student Affairs professionals, and many more opportunities. If you are interested please contact me or another Executive Board member with which commission you would like to join, and we can help get you connected.

I look forward to seeing you again on April 16th, 2010 at UW-Milwaukee for our annual Professional Development Institute!

Until then, I wish you a great Spring Semester filled with many accomplishments and challenges that allow you to grow. As Joseph Campbell said, “Opportunities to find deeper powers within ourselves come when life seems most challenging.”

—Carolyn L. Bell, 09-10 WCPA President

Silent Auction Raises \$500 for Scholarships and Student Affairs 101

WCPA once again hosted its silent auction at the 2009 Annual Fall Conference in October. The silent auction raised **\$500** to support graduate student scholarships and the Student Affairs 101 Paraprofessional Conference. A big thank you to the following members who donated items to the auction:

- ◆ Amanda Hebert – Eco-Friendly Gift Basket
- ◆ Angie Bong – Mary Kay Gift Set
- ◆ Ashlie Kohl – Starbucks Coffee Basket
- ◆ Chula Vista Theme Resort – Overnight Stay and 6 Waterpark Passes
- ◆ Greg Iaccarino - \$15 University Bookstore Gift Card
- ◆ John Palmer – Visit Oshkosh Gift Package
- ◆ Mai Lo Lee and the Diversity Commission – Coffee Basket
- ◆ Peter Rejto and the Professional Development Commission – Chocolate and Sweet Things Basket
- ◆ Vicki Schreiber – Coffee and Tea Baskets

Recap of 2009 WCPA Awards and Scholarships by Greg Iaccarino, Former WCPA Secretary and Awards Chair 2008-2009

The WCPA Awards and Scholarships are a wonderful opportunity to recognize, thank and acknowledge the deserving individuals and programs that contribute to the student affairs profession in Wisconsin. WCPA was honored to recognize the 2009 recipients of the awards and scholarships at the 2009 WCPA Fall Conference in Wisconsin Dells. A big thank you to those that nominated some outstanding individuals and programs, and also to the awards selection committee from the WCPA Executive Board for its help in choosing a fine group of recipients. Please watch your e-mail and the WCPA website for the next opportunity to nominate some deserving individuals in 2010! The 2009 WCPA Awards and Scholarship recipients, with excerpts from their award nominations, are listed below. Congratulations!

ACPA Scholarship

Alex Brown
Graduate Assistant, Greek Life
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Alex is a very responsible individual who completes tasks assigned without complaint and in a timely fashion. Alex is a strong leader that not only possesses personal motivation, but the ability to lead and motivate others. He does all of this effortlessly and maintains a true sense of professionalism in all that he does. He is highly motivated and committed to any project or task that he assumes. Alex is an individual who cares, is sincere, and driven to excellence. As a Greek Life Graduate Assistant, Alex has played a key role that in the short time he has been involved at UW-La Crosse that our community has grown, developed and improved under his direction.

The Daniel Siler Memorial Scholarship

Molly Krochalk
Intern, Letters and Science Career Services
University of Wisconsin - Madison

Continued on page 5...

Recap of 2009 WCPA Awards and Scholarships (continued)

Molly started an internship in a student services setting for the first time at a college campus (at the Letters and Science Career Services office). Molly stated in her self-nomination: "For this reason, attending the WCPA Conference will provide an excellent introduction to the field and enhance my professional development in several ways. First, it will allow me to understand my position within a more expansive and interconnected context. Second, I will have the opportunity to network with individual college personnel and gain important insights, especially in the area of career counseling. Finally, as I look at the list of interesting topics for the program line-up, I am excited to increase my knowledge and apply it to counseling sessions during the remainder of my internship and beyond." Molly's ultimate goal is to work as a career counselor at a college campus.

Support Staff Recognition Award

Sara Thommesen
University Services Associate, Student Organizations
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire

Sara serves as the program assistant for our 240 student organizations on campus. Sara is the frontline for most of our student organization inquiries, and she takes personal pride and responsibility in assisting our students and advisors each and every day. Sara regularly greets all of our visitors with a smile and is an incredibly helpful resource. It is very evident in her everyday interactions that she cares about and wants the best for students, as she works diligently to help get them the information and resources they need to succeed. More often than not, Sara anticipates what needs to be done, and she already has tasks and projects well underway. She regularly seeks to improve her skills by seeking out workshops and trainings that will benefit her in her job, with a positive attitude!

New Professional of the Year Award

Jenny Gabler
Residence Hall Director
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire

Jenny has a strong interest in collegiate alcohol issues and has been involved in assisting our alcohol education office in training of our peer student facilitators for our alcohol class (assigned to students who violate our alcohol policies), in planning and implementing our large-scale "Party House" program for new students, and serves on our campus Alcohol Safety Task Force. She is also presently serving on our campus Eating Disorders Task Force as well. Jenny has found WCPA to be a tremendous opportunity to develop further and to share ideas more broadly. To that end, she volunteered to chair a Commission in WCPA. Jenny has truly accomplished amazing efforts in her short time as a Hall Director on our campus. She is dedicated, thoughtful, hard-working, has excellent listening and counseling skills, and a great sense of humor. Of many hall directors over the years, Jenny is one of the stars.

Program Award

Social Justice Retreat, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

Jen Murray, Director / Sue McCarthy, Assistant Director / Warren Scherer, Assistant Director / Carla Cadet, Program Manager / Rebecca Grassl, Program Manager / Ramona Sledge, Advisor

The purpose of this retreat was to provide students with the opportunity to examine the ways that power and privilege and systems of oppression operate throughout campus and society and to explore ways to work towards social justice, equality, and a more inclusive campus environment. This two day retreat utilized small discussion groups, group activities, a keynote speaker, and journaling to facilitate greater understanding of systems of oppression and power and privilege and how these issues affect individuals and communities on this campus and throughout society. The curriculum from "Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice" was used to plan and facilitate the retreat activities. A specific strength of the retreat was that fact that all individuals developed personal action plans that included specific goals to work towards when they returned to their daily lives back on campus. In addition, participants were surveyed throughout the process in order for the retreat planners to have a clear sense of what was learned and the extent to which the retreat had an impact. Valuable information was gained through these surveys regarding participants' experience, which helped the planning committee determine the value in doing the retreat in future semesters.

Continued on page 6...

Recap of 2009 WCPA Awards and Scholarships (continued)

Annabelle E. Wolf Outstanding Service in College Student Personnel Award

Scott Seyforth
Area Coordinator, University Housing
University of Wisconsin - Madison

Scott has played a key role in the creation of the Chadbourne Residential College (CRC) at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. The CRC program became a nationally respected program of its kind under Scott's 10 years of leadership, and has been ranked in the The Fiske Guide To College as one of the Top Five Residential Colleges at a Public University in the United States since 2002. Through his work with CRC, Scott has helped create some of the cross-campus academic collaborations most focused on student learning at UW-Madison, including class sections taught in the residence halls. Scott chaired the committee that created the LGBT Liaison Program at the University of Wisconsin - Madison in 1996 (one of the earliest programs of its kind in the country), designed to help connect and support LGBT students in the residence halls. Scott has contributed to the Student Affairs field through publishing in peer-reviewed journals on topics such as housing program financial trends, leadership practices in learning communities, and a cover story in ACPA About Campus detailing his innovative course for first-year students on films about college. Scott was an Executive Board Member for WCPA from 1996 to 1999. A frequent supporter and presenter at the WCPA conference, he was awarded the WCPA Best Program of the Conference Award in 2001.

Randy Thrush WCPA Leadership Award

Paul Shepherd
Director of Student Life
University of Wisconsin - River Falls

Paul Shepherd's leadership during his time as WCPA President-Elect, President, and Past President has resulted in tremendous advancement for WCPA as an organization. He has championed many causes and issues that have led our organization in an exciting new direction, allowing WCPA to better meet the needs of its membership. Paul was at the forefront of several new initiatives during his 3-year term, including an executive board restructuring, the elimination of membership dues, the development of commissions, and the re-establishment of a connection with ACPA. Paul challenged the board members to think in new and different ways about these issues, and regularly sought feedback and ideas about how to implement them. His enthusiasm and passion for the organization, and dedication to WCPA, allowed WCPA to accomplish so much in a relatively short amount of time.

Undergraduate Student Leader Award

Jon Tingley
Program Coordinator, Union Recreation Center
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

Since Jon began as Program Coordinator of the Union Recreation Center in the Spring of 2007, he has developed innovative and creative ways to bring people to the center, developed a comprehensive staff training program, developed new programs that fit the diverse needs of UWM students, excelled in every area of his position, and balanced a busy work schedule with his personal and academic responsibilities and is still able to shine in all areas. Jon has created a wide range of new and innovative programs for the Rec Center. For example, he developed the Rec Center Tour, a concert series that features UWM student bands who play in the Rec Center during our Friday night cosmic bowling. Jon recognized a need on campus for students to perform for students and developed this program to fit that need. Furthermore, he also developed party packages for the Rec Center that are available to students, the campus community, and the general public. Because of Jon, students hear about events on Twitter, Facebook, the Rec Center blog, and our Rec Center Tour website. He has developed e-marketing strategies for the Union and a presentation of future Union renovation plans. Most importantly, Jon is a leader within the staff he co-supervises. Not only does he handle the day-to-day supervision of staff, but Jon also has developed an in-depth training program and staff handbook for the staff. Jon is also a role model for staff throughout the building. He is well-respected and frequently turned to by other student staff as well as full time staff for his expertise. When Jon is thanked for his hard work, he humbly acknowledges the recognition then quickly moves on to the next great idea.

Continued on page 7...

Recap of 2009 WCPA Awards and Scholarships - by Greg Iaccarino (continued)

Best of Show (Program Showcase)

WCPA Candidate for ACPA State and International Division Showcase Program

Dr. Pamela A. Peters

Doctoral Advisor/Assistant Professor, College of Education and Leadership Doctoral Program

Cardinal Stritch University

The Best of Show award is presented to the session at the WCPA Fall Conference that receives the highest point total from the tally of evaluations of sessions from the conference attendees. This session is then forwarded to ACPA as a candidate for the ACPA program showcase session at the 2010 ACPA Annual Convention in Boston (along with other state divisions of ACPA that have applied).

Dr. Peters' program at the WCPA Fall Conference was entitled: "Understanding the Strengths of First-Generation Students as a Strategy for Nurturing Success."

Our 2009 WCPA Award and Scholarship Winners



Commission Corner

Our Commissions hard at work at the 2009 WCPA Conference



Mental and Behavioral Health Commission

By Jenny Gabler

Hi! My name is Jenny Gabler and I am the Behavioral and Mental Health Commission Chair. The purpose of this commission is to help get WCPA members involved in relevant dialogue and research regarding behavioral and mental health issues on today's college campuses. The more that student affairs professionals stay in tune with mental health issues facing college students, the better we can serve and support them.

During the Fall 2009 WCPA Conference we brainstormed a few hot topic ideas to explore, including the autism spectrum, returning veteran issues, thought disorders, and depression. In addition, such things as focusing on safety, resources, self-care, and role modeling can also be of great benefit.

Continued on page 9...

Mental and Behavioral Health Commission (continued)

There are many ways to be involved! Researching a topic of interest; writing newsletter submissions; sharing and discussing relevant articles and papers; engaging in conversation with colleagues across the state regarding best practices and idea sharing; publications; program presentations at the Annual Conference and Professional Development Institutes are just a few opportunities. Commission members are encouraged to be as involved as their schedules allow, and the variety of options can be easily accommodating.

Using technology such as Facebook, online WIKI forms, emails, blogs, teleconferences, etc. are some of the ways that this commission is hoping to share information and engage in frequent dialogue. If you are interested in joining this exciting, growing commission, please contact me at: gablerja@uwec.edu.

Professional Development Commission

By Maigan Wipfli

Happy 2010 Everyone! The Professional Development Commission has been hard at work since we saw you at the conference in October! We just put out a survey, and already have over 50 respondents! Keep it coming! The survey will be open until March 1st and can be located at:

http://uweauclaire.qualtrics.com/SE?SID=SV_9z9j7rjILDVQ7OI&SVID=Prod

Once the Commission has reviewed all of the information, it will be used to determine what types of things WCPA can do to improve Professional Development Opportunities. Survey information will be shared in the next newsletter!

If you have taken the survey, I'm sure you noticed some of the ideas we've had already which include: a conference book club, a WCPA Professional Development social networking site, and an adopt-a-professional (mentorship-type) program. I'm sure this list will only grow with some of the ideas you've presented to us in the survey. Thank you for your participation!

The Professional Development Commission is always taking members, so if you are interested, please email the chair, Maigan Wipfli at wipflim@uwec.edu.

Leadership and Involvement Commission

By Tonya McKenna Trabant

Have you ever been complimented for being a good follower? When someone says "you're a good leader!" what do you think? Are you proud? Curious? What meaning are we making with our students about effective ways of leading and following? And, how is co-curricular engagement involved in these questions?

I hope to work with many WCPA members this year on exploring these questions. As Chair of the Leadership and Involvement Commission, my role is catalyzing discussion about important issues related to student development in these areas.

My work is currently in student leadership development and academic programming in the Chadbourne Residential College at UW-Madison. I work for the College of Letters and Science in a partnership with University Housing. But perhaps more interestingly, I'm from Alaska and am a two-time alumna from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I love to sing and hum and winter is my favorite season (go figure, eh?).

I look forward to learning more from many of you. If you're interested in the questions above, or have questions of your own, please email me: Trabant@wisc.edu.

On the Merits of LinkedIn in Comparison to Facebook - by Sheila Keaton

As much as we tell our students to exercise caution with their Facebook profiles, how many of you wish you could redefine your “friend-ing” strategy? On my Facebook account I am “friends” with close friends, family (including young cousins), co-workers, my current and several previous bosses, random people from middle school, colleagues from professional associations (like WCPA), some people I went on a trip with, students who work in our office... and here I am drawing the line by not friend-ing students I advise. What is the difference, really?

I know a colleague who has a separate Facebook account just for students she works with. It's a good idea, but when we get to colleagues it gets confusing. You may be connecting with the same colleague for various reasons – blurring the lines between friends, networking contacts for your career and something in between. Would you have these folks on the regular account or on the students-I-work-with account? You may want these colleagues to see your vacation photos but not your wall posts. Even if you understand all the security features, you would have to spend large amounts of time and energy getting them just perfect. Maybe we just need a different mechanism for more professional connecting.

As a Career Counselor, I have been familiar with and actively using LinkedIn for a few years. I continue to be surprised by colleagues who don't really know about it or don't use it and by professional organizations that do most of their connecting on Facebook. I should not be surprised, considering the field we work in. We work with students. Students use Facebook.

Don't get me wrong, I love the influence of students – I will probably be cool (or maybe just aware of what is cool!) for a lot longer than I would have been without being with college students every day. And... maybe it's time for staff to influence students. Facebook is great for your personal life. LinkedIn is more appropriate for your professional life. If a person fits into both worlds, they can be your contact on both sites, right?

LinkedIn really is the Facebook of the professional networking market – it is by far the most-used site (over 55 million professionals) of its kind. So, start by signing up for LinkedIn, fill out your profile, join your alumni group, look someone up before talking with them, and join the WCPA group (subgroups may be coming!). I hope it works for you!

Student Affairs 101 - A Student's Reflection

By Jay Stokes, Undergraduate Student at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Student Affairs 101 was a great opportunity to connect with students and staff from across the state. I got a chance to expand my mind intellectually as well as fuel my passion for student affairs. As a person who is still exploring graduate programs and potential career fields, Student Affairs 101 pushed me over the edge... in a good way! It was the last 'proof' I needed to know that this is the path for me.

The break out sessions were really good! When people are at different stages of their search, they need different information. Breaking students up into 3 separate groups was great! I got a lot more relevant information that really pin pointed what I needed to do next. Also, learning about OPE was very helpful. Before the conference, OPE was like a far off place that I couldn't really comprehend. After the conference, OPE was like the next door neighbor with all the sweet video games that you cant wait to play!

I might not be pursuing student affairs if it wasn't for WCPA. Great conference, great ideas, great people... great experience. Thank you!



*31st Annual
Oshkosh Placement Exchange*

February 25-28, 2010

For 31 years we have been privileged to offer an excellent venue for candidates and employers to find the best match possible...

171 colleges/universities (public and private) • 588 candidates
• 294 position listings (125 of which were graduate assistantships) • 33 states represented
(2009 Statistics)

920-424-3226
www.theope.org

oshkosh placement exchange

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
OSHKOSH

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?

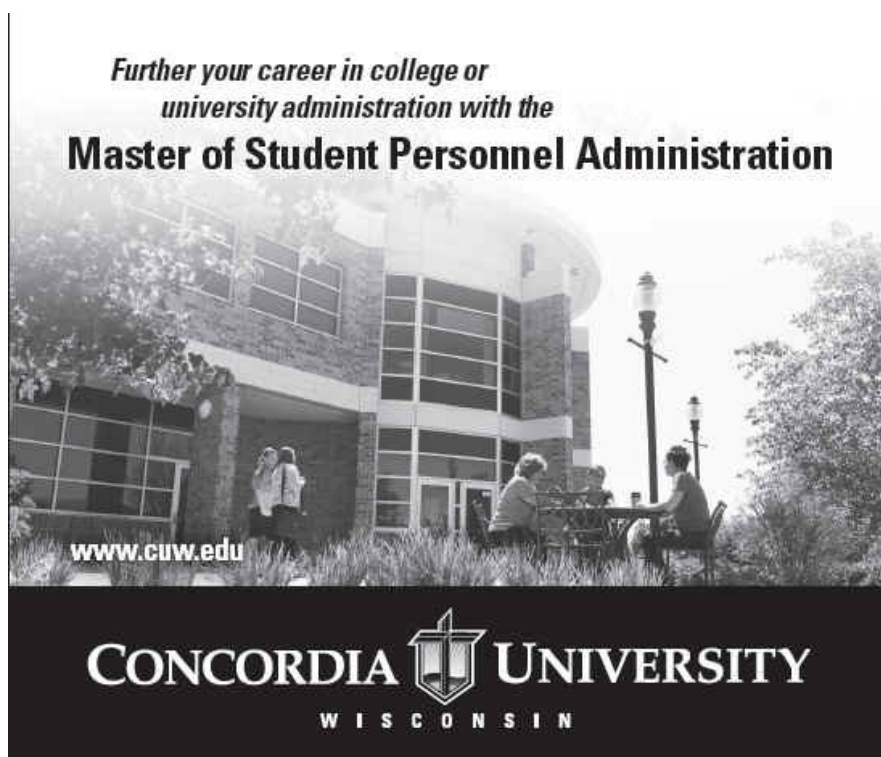
If you answered yes to any of these questions, make sure that your WCPA membership information is updated.

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

Remember...membership to WCPA is FREE!

If you are already a WCPA member and want to update your membership info: email Luis Benevoglienti at benevogl@uww.edu with your name and the updated information.

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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