

WCPA News

Fall 2012

Our State • Our Profession • Endless Opportunities

WCPA: Past, Present and Future

Matt Suwalski, WCPA President

Greetings. I have the privilege to address WCPA as your President in one final newsletter before our Fall Conference and I move on to President-Elect. I wanted to provide some context to my welcome and a little teaser for my address at the conference. Over the past 8 years I have had the opportunity to see this organization grow in both size and diversity of our membership. At one time we had a board that consisted of approximately 18 members and our secondary focus was functional areas (residence life, student activities, etc) and now we have a board of 9 with 5 commission chairs. The focus has shifted towards providing “high quality, low cost professional development opportunities to everyone in higher education” and I would like to say were succeeding at it.

Moving forward as an organization we need to continue to focus on sustaining what’s working, creating what’s needed and expanding to reach those who would benefit from our services. I am always constantly amazed at the passion and commitment I have seen over the years from the professionals who have humbly served WCPA in various capacities. Remember that our organization is what we make of it and if we need to go in a different direction we must be confident that we have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to move us in that direction. I would like to end by encouraging everyone to consider getting involved beginning with

simply encouraging someone to go to our website www.MyWCPA.org and signing up for our **free membership**. If you are more inclined consider presenting a program at our Fall Conference / Spring PDI or volunteering your time as a commission chair or exec board member.

In closing I want to thank each and every one of you who have greatly affected my personal and professional life as I have had the opportunity and pleasure to serve on the WCPA exec board. I hope to see all of you at the Fall Conference in October.

Use the QR Code below to be entered in a drawing for a \$15 Amazon Gift Card!



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So You Want to Present a Program

Maigan Wipfli, 2012 Conference Chair Elect

Conference time is just around the corner! That means that it's time to dust off a program or get working on an entirely new one. This year's theme "Staying Connected" can mean many things to many different people. It can mean staying connected via technology, connected to yourself, connected to others/networking, connecting to students, connecting to your career, and much more.

In order to help you plan for your program I've compiled a list of ideas that the WCPA board has gathered from both the Spring 2010 Professional Development Survey and the Spring 2012 Survey of Technical and 2-Year Institutions. Below are some of those topics.

Spring 2010 Professional Development Survey

Q.8 "What kinds of skills, experience, or knowledge would help you in achieving your professional goals?"

Top 5 responses:

- *Technology (social media, web, webinar)*
- *Job Market, Career Info, Advancement*
- *Networking/Mentoring*
- *New Innovations (trends, theory, programming)*
- *Training and Development (Professional Development, speakers, leadership, advising,*

supervision)

Spring 2012 Survey of Technical and 2-Year Institutions

Q. 8 "What are some of the professional needs of student affairs professionals at 2-year institutions?"

Responses:

- *TIS Training*
- *MBTI Training*
- *People Soft*
- *Role in Supporting Students*
- *Networking*
- *Idea Sharing*
- *Effective Multitasking*
- *Doing More with Less (Personnel and Finances)*
- *Career Search/Job Opportunities*

By no means is this list exhaustive but it gives us a jumping off point for the program needs of our membership.

If you have any questions about our programs, please feel free to contact me at wipflim@uwec.edu or 715-835-4438. And remember that the Program Submission Deadline is Monday, September 3rd. See you at the Conference!

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Becca Girard, Leadership and Involvement Commission Chair

Student development is a challenging but highly rewarding part of our jobs in Student Affairs. Regardless of the department in which we work, we are all essential players in students who enter higher education. It is imperative to refresh our memories on the foundational theories that guide our everyday work. If you have not yet had the chance to peruse through some developmental theories, I highly suggest looking at *Student Development in College: Theory, Research, and Practice* by Nancy J. Evans, et al. The second edition came out in 2010 and serves as a

comprehensive resource for any professional in higher education. Before the next academic year begins, take the opportunity to get some reading in!

www.spa.wisc.edu



WCPA Elections

Angie Bong, Past President

Looking for an exciting new professional development opportunity, a way to give back to the profession, or a way to get more involved with WCPA? Please consider running for an executive board position! The following positions are available for the 2012 election and appointment process: President-Elect, Conference Chair-Elect, Graduate Student and New Professional Commission Chair, and Diversity & Social Justice Commission Chair.

Positions are open to all higher education professionals

working on a college, university, technical school, or tribal school campus in Wisconsin. Graduate students are eligible to serve as commission chairs.

Individuals interested in being considered for a position should review the position descriptions, complete the Candidate Profile by going to the [“Get Involved!”](#) page of the WCPA website (www.mywcpa.org/professional-development/get-involved), and return to Angie Bong (abong@bus.wisc.edu) by **Friday, August 31**.

Student Affairs 101

WCPA is pleased to offer the 12th Annual Student Affairs 101 Conference for undergraduate students interested in pursuing a career in student affairs. The conference will be held on October 12 and 13, 2012, at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells, WI.

The two-day Student Affairs 101 Conference brings undergraduate students from across the state together with graduate students and professionals in the field of student affairs. On day one, students join the graduate student and professional conference for lunch and a keynote speaker. In the afternoon, students have the opportunity to explore various topics in student affairs through breakout sessions led by student affairs professionals. On day two, students break into track sessions designed to provide a targeted experience for students at various stages of the decision making process about pursuing a career in student affairs. Each track is a three-hour experience to help students answer the question, “Where do I go from here?”

The Exploring Track is for students considering the possibility of a career in student affairs and covers topics like why pursue a career in student affairs, current trends and issues in higher education, and reflection activities to answer the question, “What do I need to do to find out if student affairs is the profession for me?”

The Committed Track is for students who have decided to pursue a career in student affairs and who have more than a year of undergraduate education remaining. Topics include the graduate school search process and discussions about whether or not to pursue a graduate degree, ethical decision making, and reflection activities to answer the question, “What experiences should I gain to prepare me for a career in student affairs?”

The Searching Track is for students who have committed to a career in student affairs and will be job or graduate school searching within the year. The Searching Track covers topics including how to navigate placement exchanges, the GRE, ethical decision making, conversations with seasoned professionals, and reflection activities to answer the question, “What do I need to do to be more prepared for my search process?”

There are two registration options for students interested in attending student affairs 101 this year. For \$50, students may register for the conference, which includes lunch and refreshments on Friday and breakfast and lunch on Saturday, as well as all conference sessions and materials. Students registering at this rate are responsible for their own lodging accommodations.

For \$75, students may register for the conference, including everything provided at the \$50 rate, and including lodging and the resort fee. Lodging is based on four person occupancy. Students may submit a specific roommate request at the time of registration, and we will do our best to honor the request, though requests are not guaranteed. The deadline for those students wishing to register at the workshop and lodging rate is Friday, October 5. Lodging cannot be guaranteed after that date.

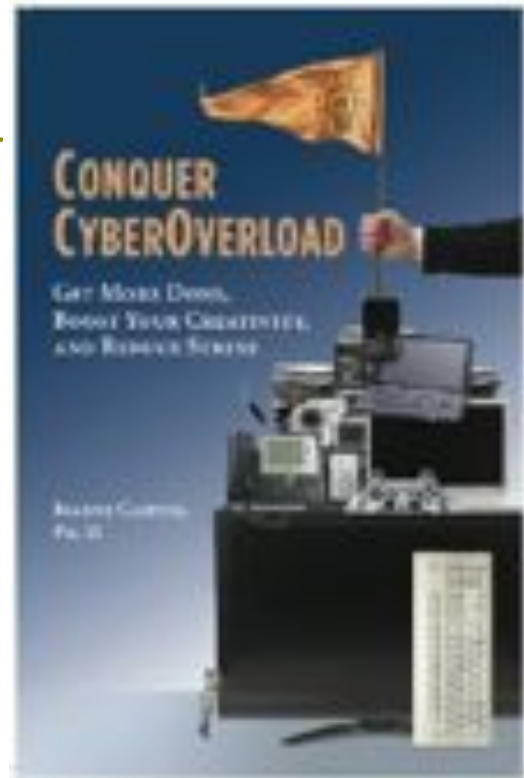
Advisors accompanying students to Student Affairs 101 may register for \$25. Lodging is not included.

For a detailed conference agenda and access to registration, please visit <http://www.mywcpa.org/studentaffairs101.php>. For questions and more information, please contact Angie Bong, WCPA Past President, via email (abong@bus.wisc.edu) or phone (608-262-0710).

2012 Book Club

Chris Stindt, Professional Development Chair

Book club will be back at the Fall Conference! This year's book is "Conquer CyberOverload" by Joanne Cantor, Ph. D. If you ever feel like your technology runs you instead of the other way around, this is a great book. It's an easy and quick read, and similar to last year, 10 copies will be available for free. Just contact Chris Stindt at stindtc@ripon.edu to receive a copy. See you this fall!



Case Study Competition

Sheila Keaton, Graduate and New Professionals Commission Chair

The Case Study Competition is an opportunity for graduate students to showcase their skills and knowledge of the field of Student Affairs. Each team will analyze, evaluate, and provide solutions to a thought-provoking case relevant to the field to a panel of judges made up of student affairs practitioners. The winners will be presented with an award during the Closing Luncheon at the WCPA Conference.

To sign up to compete in the Case Study, graduate students may indicate their interest when registering for the conference. They will then receive

an e-mail to confirm their interest. In this e-mail, they will be asked to list all the members of their team. On the conference registration form, there will be a link where you can find all the details for the competition. We hope you decide to compete!



Continuing Adult & Higher Education Programs at NIU

NIU 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 Travel Education. The Counseling program offers Master Health & Social Counseling.



The Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management is comprised of the Corporation of President and includes Diversity & Equity, Learning & Learning, Student Life, Student Services, and Enrollment Management. The Division consists of 20 departments that provide student services, programs, and facilities in areas of academic support, student organizations, institutional relations and support, and wellness development.



The Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management and the Continuing Adult & Higher Education Program collaborates to host CAHEP. This two-day program allows students to meet with faculty and staff members within the CAHEP Department and explore the graduate opportunities within the Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management. It has been and is popular for the CAHEP students, and will keep its life.



These students become graduate students in the Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management. They become part of the Job Experience. The Job Experience includes access to job-specific, competency-based professional development programs as well as web-based research and presentation resources. They also have opportunities to serve as Student-Affairs Committee through their continuing education.



Start your career at NIU.



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www.marquette.edu/STPA



41st Annual WCPA Conference - “Staying Connected”

Mandy Briggs, 2012 Conference Chair

Conference registration is now open! You can register by going to <http://mywcpa.org/conference.php>.

WCPA will host its annual conference on October 11th and 12th at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells. This year’s theme is “Staying Connected.” There will be opportunities to share experiences, network with fellow WCPA members, and connect with our students!

Book early! Early Bird Registration and hotel rates expire September 10, 2012.

Conference Highlights include:

- Keynote - Joanne Cantor, PhD, is this year’s keynote speaker. Dr. Cantor is a professional speaker, author, and researcher. Dr. Cantor was a professor at the University of Wisconsin for 26 years. She speaks on productivity, creativity, and stress reduction. Dr. Cantor is a member of the Authors Guild, the National Speakers Association, the American Psychological

Association, the Association for Psychological Science, the International Communication Association, and the National Communication Association. She graduated from Cornell University with a B.A. degree. She received her M.A. from the Annenberg School for Communications at the University of Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. from Indiana University. In addition to Dr. Cantor delivering this year’s keynote, we will be using her book *Conquer CyberOverload: Get More Done, Boost Your Creativity, and Reduce Stress* for this year’s annual book club.

- Social – Time to prep your brains and find some WCPA colleagues to form your team because trivia is back! Last year’s social was such an astounding success that we will host a trivia night from 9:00-11:00pm on Thursday evening. It’s FREE to play – join in on the fun!
- 3rd Annual Book Club – WCPA’s Professional Development Commission is again sponsoring its annual book club. This year’s book is *Conquer CyberOverload: Get More Done, Boost Your Creativity, and Reduce Stress* by our keynote, Dr. Joanne Cantor. The commission will host a book club meeting at the annual conference for anyone who has read the book and would like to discuss it or for anyone who would like to learn more about the book.
- **Case Study Competition** – Once again, graduate students have an opportunity to show case their skills and knowledge of the field of Student Affairs. Each team will analyze, evaluate, and provide solutions to a thought-provoking case relevant to our field for a panel of judges made up of student affairs practitioners. The Case Study Competition winners will be presented with an award during the Closing Luncheon at the WCPA Conference. Participants can sign up during conference registration or at the conference.

Call for Programs

Every year WCPA offers members excellent professional development opportunities, one being the wealth of knowledge provided by members across the state through program presentations. As we gear up for our annual conference, we invite you share your knowledge or passion with others and submit a program presentation. Program proposals are due Monday, September 3rd! Program proposal instructions can be found now at http://www.mywcpa.org/conference/WCPA_program_proposal.php.



We provide a strong foundation for students interested in the Field of Student Affairs in Higher Education.

To find out more about our program:

<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.



Staying Connected

Maigan Wipfli, Conference Chair Elect

WCPA is gearing up to host its 41st annual WCPA Conference, October 11th and 12th at the Wilderness Territory in Wisconsin Dells. This year's theme is "Get Connected... Stay Connected."

In addition to our great offerings of programs and celebrating the history, present, and future of WCPA, we would like to highlight some of the great features at this year's conference:

- WCPA is hosting its 3rd annual book club.
- Calling all Graduate Students for this year's Case Study Competition
- A new and exciting Pre-Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10th. Check out the WCPA

Website for more information.

Early Bird Registration and hotel rates expire September 10th, 2012, so don't delay, register today!! For more information on the conference or to register, please visit <http://mywcpa.org/conference.php>.

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Book Review:

The Traveler's Gift by Andy Andrews

Matt Suwalski, WCPA President

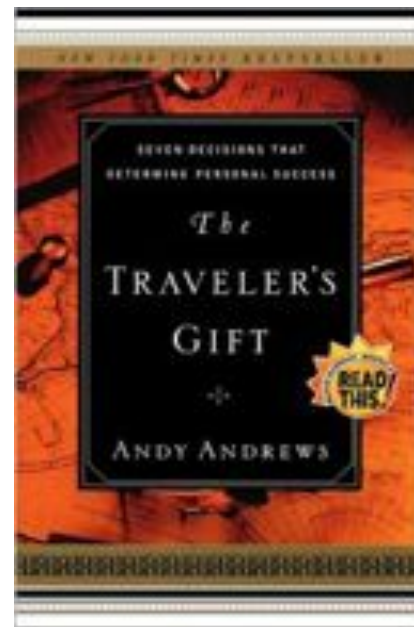
If your looking for a book that is easy to read and provides some introspective analysis in an indirect way than this definitely a book you will enjoy. The Traveler's Gift takes a walk through history but in a completely unique way. You will follow the journey of David Ponder whom it would be light to say is having a bad day. David encounters a life-changing event that plunges him back and forth through time meeting mentors per se that each have a "decision" to provide him. I found this book to be comforting while at the same time expanding as it allowed me to think about my life journey in a new way. This isn't the type of book you can read and follow step A. B. C. and end up with results, but the book does provide some context to begin to ask new questions about your past, present and future. Below is a list of the seven decisions with a bit of context after them.

1. The buck stops here. *I am responsible for my past and my future.*
2. I will seek wisdom. *I will be a servant to others.*
3. I am a person of action. *I seize the moment. I choose now.*
4. I have a decided heart. *My destiny is assured.*
5. Today I will choose to be happy. *I am the possessor of a grateful spirit.*
6. I will greet this day with a forgiving spirit. *I will*

forgive myself.

7. I will persist without exception. *I am a person of great faith.*

I challenge you that if you have a moment pick up The Traveler's Gift and delve into history and learn from the metaphors of the past. The book will leave you wondering if the author had a time machine and was actually at some of these events as he recalls critical moments for our country.



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