

Sharing the Commonwealth

Volume 38, Issue 3
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An e-newsletter published by the Pennsylvania College Personnel Association

PCPA seeking e-board nominations

The PCPA election process starts this month. In fact, past president Amanda Ries sent out the call for nominations last week. Nominations are invited from all members of PCPA.

The six positions that are open to nominations this year are:

- **President Elect:** This person will serve as President Elect in 2014-2015, President in 2015-2016, and Past President in 2016-2017. As President, this person will preside over all meetings of the organization, provide leadership in association activities, and be the communications liaison to ACPA. This person must be a member of ACPA in addition to PCPA.
- **Constituencies Chair:** This person will serve a two year term, and will be responsible for keeping the association current on issues and information regarding minority student affairs professionals, GLBTQIA professionals, and is responsible for oversight of the equity & inclusion statement.
- **Professional Development Chair:** This person will serve a two year term, and will be responsible for providing opportunities for professional development and growth to student affairs professionals

through various programmatic efforts.

- **Four Year Public Member at Large East:** This person will serve a two year term, representing the needs and interest of the four year public institution student affairs professionals from the Western section of the Commonwealth.
- **Four Year Private Member at Large East:** This person will serve a two year term, representing the needs and interest of the four year private institution student affairs professionals from the Western section of the Commonwealth.
- **Two Year College Member at Large East:** This person will serve a two year term, representing the needs and interests of two year college student affairs professionals in the Western section of the Commonwealth.

All PCPA members are encouraged to nominate themselves or others for these open positions. The slate of candidates will be presented to the Executive Board and elections will occur in March. All newly elected representatives will begin their terms on May 31st, 2014.

Nominations can be made via this [link](#).

A glimpse back at the 2013 PCPA Conference

It seems like just last week, members of the PCPA were gathered together for the association's annual conference. We captured some great memories digitally. You can check them out right [here](#).

One of the highlights of the conference, as explained by conference chair David Greene, during the last PCPA board meeting was the quality of the workshops. Mr. Greene said every workshop received positive reviews. At the conference, we also recognized a number of award winners (*see page 2 for a complete list*).

Another highlight... the fabulous keynote speeches by Dr. John J. "Ski" Sygielski of HACC and Dr. Jan Arminio of George Mason.



PCPA Conference Award Winners

PCPA's best and brightest were recognized at the conference in October.

Outstanding Contribution to PCPA

•**David Greene (Community College of Philadelphia)** His nominator said: "Over the past two years, David has done tremendous work for PCPA, most notably by developing our annual conference. The quantity of people attending the conference and the quality of the conference have both benefitted from David's involvement and leadership. He has truly embraced his role as conference chair and has done a wonderful job in the planning, executing, and evaluating of the conference. "

•**Amber Racchini (Indiana University of PA)** Her nominator said: "Amber is, without question, one of the hardest working professionals that I know. I have had the privilege of working with Amber in PCPA for a number of years, and have seen her assume a number of roles including Membership Chair and, most recently, President. She is an outstanding representative of the field and our organization."

Outstanding Contribution to the Profession

•**Claudia Curry (Community College of Philadelphia)** Her nominator said: "She is the founding director of the Women's Center at the Community College of Philadelphia... In her time at the College she has ensured that those students without a voice or who were at risk of dropping or stopping out of college. One of her recent accomplishments is her chapter in Making Our Voices Heard: Women of Color in Academia titled 'Taking Matters into My Own Hands: A Strategy for Surviving the Culture of Academia'."

Outstanding Graduate Student

Sean McGowan (Seton Hill University/Indiana University of PA) His nominator said: "In addition to all that comes with living on campus and working in Residence Life, Sean has always been willing to get involved with all areas of Student Life and the community... Sean is an extremely talented artist, musician, and young student affairs professional. He is always willing to assist."

Outstanding New Professional

Thomas Rainey (Carnegie Mellon University) His nominator said: "Thomas has quickly proven himself to be a capable student affairs professional. I've also been struck by the maturity he shows when collaborating with more seasoned professionals in our office... A notable accomplishment has been the work Thomas has put in to improving the relationship between Student Life and Housing at CMU."

Ronald Lunardini Mentor- ing Award

Kate Linder (Indiana University of PA) Her nominator said: "Kate has served as a supervisor and mentor to me for the past three years, first as a graduate student and now as a full time professional. Kate is the reason that I have been able to grow and develop as a student affairs professional, through encouraging me to present at conferences, take on new initiatives, and get involved in as many aspects of student affairs as possible. Not only is Kate a mentor to me, she is also a role model. Kate encourages the other professionals and myself to have a good work/life balance, take time to relish in our accomplishments, and be proud of the great work we do. A true mentor not only helps guide the mentee, but also celebrates the mentee's accomplishments. Kate is the first person to give credit back to the team and publicize all that the staff does here in the Center for Student Life. I wholeheartedly believe Kate Linder deserves the Ron Lunardini Outstanding Mentor Award."

Grady Roberts Graduate Student Writing Award

Devon Miner (University of Pennsylvania)

Case Study Competition

Jenna Konyak & Katie Shoemaker (Indiana University of PA)



PCPA Conference 2013 In Photos



Click [here](#) for more photos from the annual conference.

Dr. Sygielski shares advice at PCPA conference

Submitted by Marissa Brush

Among the many presenters and speakers at the PCPA 2013 conference, one of the most memorable was Dr. John J. “Ski” Sygielski.

Dr. Sygielski, who is president of Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC), was the October 20 keynote speaker.

During his keynote, Dr. Sygielski, explained that he was at one point in his career a “secret shopper” where he went around to different community colleges and pretended that he did not have his GED. What he encountered shocked him. He came into contact with people who did not seem to like students. Needless to say, his experience was not great.

He encouraged those in the room to learn from his experiences. Education should be more personal, and one on one time is really important to students to enhance their experience. He provided examples of enhancing a student’s experience such as providing learning communities,

celebrating and honoring diversity, engagement, and leadership opportunities.

Dr. Sygielski also stated that student affairs professions must work like they are on a cruise ship. Student affairs professionals must make learning exciting.



He further stressed the importance of being intentional about online learning. He stressed the importance of those in financial aid in guiding the student through the financial aid process. He praised those who worked in disability services as well those who were tutors or worked with tutors.

Lastly, he encouraged his audience to smile to set the pace of a student’s experience. He explained that student affairs professionals are the first and the last faces a student will see. Thus, they should be memorable and exciting.

Odds & Ends Around the Commonwealth

- Saint Francis University has issued a Save the Date notice for a drive-in workshop, “Emerging Drug Trends”, on Friday, May 2nd. The workshop will address the current abuse of synthetic drugs, opiates, and prescribed medications and the epidemic level of use by young adults. Presents are Ken Dickinson of the Gaudenzie Training Institute and Detective Kevin Price of the Cambria County Drug Task Force.

- The 16th annual National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) conference will be April 11-12 at Temple University. The conference theme this year is “Occupy Education: Empowering the 99%”. For more information, visit the conference [website](#).

- PCPA member Scott Helfrich is working on a SA Tech Unconference to tentatively be held at California University of PA this June. More details will be available later this spring.

- The Delaware Valley Student Affairs Conference was held last week in Lafayette Hill, PA. For more information about the DVSAAC, visit their [website](#) or check

out @dvsactweets on Twitter.

- MACUHO’s Mid-Atlantic Placement Conference is Feb. 20 & 21 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Reading, PA. More details are available [here](#).

- PCPA is seeking interested people to serve on the 2014 Conference planning committee. Interested persons should complete an interest form at this [link](#).



PCPA Board Meeting Briefs

The Winter Executive Board Meeting was hosted by PCPA President Amber Racchini via conference call on Jan. 31. Twelve board members were present.

- A. Racchini reported that PCPA has earned approximately \$690 this quarter from dual memberships. Membership chair A. Shumar reported that dual memberships are on the rise.
- A. Racchini acknowledged that ACPA liability insurance will be tended to during the next cycle.
- Conference chair D. Greene reported a decrease in cost per person for the conference this year. He reported we made slightly more than the conference cost us this year. Workshops were consistently rated and evaluated positively. Only 33 people completed electronic evaluation.
- A. Ries reported that she will put out an electronic vote to the membership as to whether the association would agree to a rolling membership.
- January Keystone Seminar was cancelled due to low

participation numbers. A committee was formed to work on implementing a timeline to guide planning of Keystone seminars. A. Racchini, A. Ries, D. Greene, D. Zlockie, M. Rizzardj, and D. Kennedy will serve on committee.

- Treasurer’s report submitted in B. Koval’s absence. Report shows a current balance of \$10,948.88.
- Board had a brief discussion about partnering with PCPA member Scott Helfrich on a possible SA Tech Unconference this summer. A. Ries will investigate.
- Four Year Private East MAL R. Kopp reported a successful recent meet & greet with colleagues in the Philadelphia area.
- The 2014 conference contracts have been signed and a deposit has been made to the Park Inn.
- A. Ries discussed elections and a timeline was established. Call for nominations will be made Feb. 7 to get the ball rolling.

Submitted by Amanda Ries & Brian Root

PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

TO: PCPA EXECUTIVE BOARD
FROM: BRYAN C. KOVAL, TREASURER
RE: TREASURER'S REPORT (October 17, 2013 to January 28, 2014)
DATE: January 28, 2014

PCPA CHECKING ACCOUNT

CASH BALANCE 10/16/2013 \$ 21,028.83

CASH RECEIPTS:

Transfer from Paypal 10/24/2013 \$ 803.80
Transfer from Paypal 12/16/2013 \$ 349.26

Total Cash Receipts \$ 1,153.06

TOTAL BALANCE + RECEIPTS + INTEREST 1/24/2014 \$ 22,181.89

CASH DISBURSEMENTS:

| DATE | CK# | ACTION | PAYEE | AMOUNT |
|-------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 10/16/2013 | DEBIT | Name Badge Inserts and Envelopes | The Co-Op Store | \$ 34.60 |
| 10/16/2013 | DEBIT | PCPA Annual Awards | Crooked Creek Creations | \$ 162.00 |
| 10/18/2013 | DEBIT | Pres. And Conference Chair Gifts | Matthews Hallmark | \$ 41.71 |
| 10/18/2013 | DEBIT | Pres. And Conference Chair Gifts | Giant Eagle | \$ 70.00 |
| 10/19/2013 | DEBIT | Executive Board Dinner | The Market Cross Pub | \$ 285.90 |
| 10/20/2013 | DEBIT | Macintosh LCD Adaptor | Best Buy | \$ 26.49 |
| 10/22/2013 | DEBIT | Final Conference Expenses | Park Inn Harrisburg West | \$ 8366.11 |
| 10/20/2013 | 1559 | Conference Wine Tasting | Westhanover Winery | \$ 250.00 |
| 10/21/2013 | 1560 | Honorarium | Jan Arminio | \$ 350.00 |
| 11/01/2013 | | Service Charge | PNC | \$ 15.00 |
| 12/09/2013 | 1561 | Conference Printing (gyals) | IUP Printing/Postal | \$ 116.64 |
| 1/10/2014 | | <u>Paypal</u> Fees – Keystone Refunds | <u>Paypal</u> | \$ 14.56 |
| 1/21/2014 | DEBIT | 2014 Conference Deposit | Park Inn Harrisburg West | \$ 1500.00 |
| Total Costs | | | | \$ 11,233.01 |
| 01/28/2014 | TOTAL BALANCE | | | \$ 10,948.88 |

PCPA

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