

Sharing the Commonwealth

An e-newsletter published by the Pennsylvania College Personnel Association

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July 2009

BEYOND THE LIMITS

Gearing up for PCPA's annual conference

Terry Wigle, PCPA President, California University of Pennsylvania

Greetings, PCPA Membership! Like most of you, I have been having a very busy summer. Two other PCPA members who are also having a very busy summer are John Mayo and Jessica Koval, the co-chairs for our annual fall conference.

They have been working very diligently to put together a first-rate conference for our membership. With budgets tight across the state, we know that a quality, affordable conference has become even more important to our members. The theme for this year's conference is "Beyond the Limits" and the conference will be held at the Four Points Sheraton in Greensburg October 18-20.

As with any organization, we are only as strong as our membership. Therefore, I ask that you be an active participant. Consider submitting a program proposal for the conference, serving as a mentor or mentee, assisting with a Keystone Seminar, joining a commission committee, writing an article for the newsletter showcasing something exciting happening on your campus, or contributing to the listserv.

PCPA's strength comes from the involvement of its members and one of the best reasons to be involved is the great opportunity to network with your colleagues from across the state of Pennsylvania.

As I look back at my involvement with PCPA, it has been the most rewarding professional development experience of my career. The people I have met and connections I have made as a result of being a member have had profound effect on me. In my 14 years as a member of PCPA, I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with outstanding professionals from every part of the state.

I would like to recognize those members of the executive board whose term has ended for all they have contributed to PCPA. My sincere thanks goes out to Tiffany Coffen, Dave Falletta, and Jan Schumacher for all of their hard work and dedication to PCPA. Additionally, let's welcome the following new executive board members, who bring a great deal of enthusiasm and expertise to the organization:

President-Elect – Matthew Shupp, Penn State Brandywine; Communication Commission Chair – Brian Root, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg; Four-Year Member Private West – Amanda Ries, Seton Hill University; and Graduate Student Liaison – Daniel Pretz, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

I look forward to increasing the dialogue among the PCPA membership; and I encourage you to contact me should you have any questions, concerns, or ideas for the good of the Pennsylvania College Personnel Association.

A note from Our Conference Co-Chairs...

John Mayo, Point Park University

Jessica Koval, Penn State University

The conference planning committee is working hard to offer a conference where colleagues across Pennsylvania can share ideas and think outside the box. Our theme will encourage participants to engage with each other and talk about exciting developments within our field.

The opening speaker at our conference will be long-time PCPA member Dr. Dwayne Hilton, Director of Student and Enrollment Services at Penn State Hazleton. In addition, Dr. Robert Reason, a faculty member in Higher Ed. at Penn State University, will present our keynote address.

Aside from our great sessions and speakers, the conference will offer many social and networking opportunities. Back this year by popular demand is the Bob Diltz Dance Party and Award.

New this year is a Murder Mystery Dinner theater presentation titled "Dial M for Mother".

Mark your calendars, and tell a friend. We hope to see you in Greensburg!



Dr. Dwayne Hilton



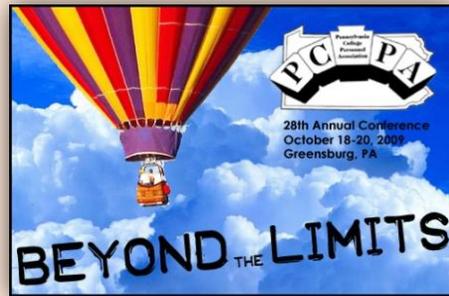
Dr. Robert Reason

-Registration Begins Soon-
www.pcpa.net

Share your expertise... submit a Program Proposal

Bryan Koval, PCPA Conference Programs Chair, Penn State University

We want you to help us go beyond the limits this year at our conference. [Submit](#) a program proposal to the conference planning committee by August 15th. We will be sending out notifications of acceptance at the beginning of September.



anyone else who may be interested! Our goal is to offer sessions that really demonstrate how student affairs professionals are going beyond the limits and making a difference on our campuses.

Please share this information with your colleagues, supervisors, friends, graduate students, classmates, faculty members, alumni, and

Please contact me if you have any questions about the call for programs process. I am excited to see what everyone is eager to share at the conference!

About our Conference Venue: Four Points by Sheraton Greensburg



Located along Route 30 east in Greensburg, the [Four Points by Sheraton hotel](#) lays claim to being Greensburg's "premier hotel". Among the many features of the hotel, you will find free and convenient parking, an indoor heated pool, fitness center, a lounge, restaurant, and high speed internet access (with a fee) throughout the hotel. Hotel rates and information will be posted soon on the PCPA website.

2009 Conference Registration Rates & Payment Policy

	<u>Regular Members</u>	<u>Grad Student Members</u>	<u>Non-Members</u>
Full Conference Registration	\$175	\$70	\$220
Sunday Registration Only	\$50	\$20	\$60
Monday Registration (no dinner)	\$95	\$30	\$110
Monday Registration (with dinner)	\$120	\$55	\$135
Tuesday Registration Only	\$30	\$20	\$50

Payment may be made by institutional check, personal check or money order. Payment is required prior to the start of the conference. Any participant who has not paid must do so when they check-in for the conference. Purchase orders will not be accepted.

All registration forms with accompanying payments must be received or postmarked by the conference registration deadline of October 2. If registering online, payment must be postmarked by October 2.

To see complete registration, cancellation, and refund policies, visit www.pcpa.net.

2009 PCPA Conference Host – Greensburg, PA

A Helpful Guide to Greensburg

Brian Root, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg



Of course, we hope you'll take full advantage of all the PCPA conference has to offer, but if you have some down time, there are lots of local attractions within the Greensburg area.

- Greensburg is home to two active PCPA colleges – [Seton Hill University](#) and the [University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg](#). Both are nestled on scenic campuses and easy to find. Both are within a 5-minute drive from the conference site.
- [Westmoreland Mall](#) is less than a ½ mile from the conference site and features more than 125 stores and restaurants. Good shopping, for sure!
- There are plenty of budget-friendly entertainment spots in Greensburg. They include: [Hill-view](#) Bowling Lanes, [Statler's](#) Fun Center (mini-golf, arcade & go-karts), Westmoreland [Museum](#) of Art, [Carmike](#) Cinema, [Pottery](#) Playhouse, various local coffee shops, and more.
- Speaking of budget-friendly options, you can take a 5-minute drive from our conference site to [Twin Lakes Park](#) – a popular, family-friendly Greensburg attraction. Don't let our conference get in the way of your daily exercise. Take a stroll around one or both of these two lakes.



This list is by no means exhaustive. The city of Greensburg has put together a very informative and helpful website for residents of and visitors to the city. [Check it out.](#)

Greensburg is easily accessible just off of the Pennsylvania Turnpike (Irwin exit #67). I can assure you Greensburg is a great city and should be a wonderful host for PCPA's 2009 conference. If you have specific questions about the city, feel free to contact me.

Greensburg prides itself in being a "small city with a big attitude".



2009 PCPA Recognition Awards

We all know someone who is dedicated to the Student Affairs profession, be they a graduate student with great potential, a staff member new to the profession, or a more seasoned professional who has made their mark. Please consider submitting a nomination of a worthy colleague for one of five PCPA honors to be awarded at the Fall 2009 conference.

Joseph Merkle Award for Outstanding Contribution to PCP

Presented to a PCPA member who has made a significant contribution to PCPA over a period of years.

Outstanding Contribution to the Profession
Presented to an individual (does not have to be a member of PCPA) who has made a notable contribution to the profession.

Outstanding New Professional
Presented to a PCPA member who has made a significant contribution to PCPA and has been employed in the student personnel field for less than five years.

Ron Lunardini Outstanding Mentor Award
Presented to a PCPA member who has worked to mentor professionals and/or graduate students.

Outstanding Graduate Student
Presented to a PCPA member and graduate student who has made a noticeable contribution to the student personnel profession through his/her studies, work, and accomplishment.

Nominations should include the nominee's name, place of employment or graduate enrollment, a statement summarizing the nominee's accomplishments, and your name and affiliation to PCPA. Multiple nominations of individuals are encouraged.

Nominations should be submitted to: Dr. [Daniel P. Kennedy](#), Associate Director, Campus Affairs Systems, Carnegie Mellon University, Cyert Hall, Room 115, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. **Deadline for nominations is September 4, 2009.**

Board Meeting Briefs

Prepared & Submitted by Charmaine Strong, Seton Hill University

PCPA's summer executive board meeting was hosted by PCPA president Terry Wigle at California University of Pennsylvania on **Wednesday, July 1, 2009**. Following are the highlights:

- Conference Co-Chair John Mayo presented updates on the conference ("Beyond the Limits") scheduled for October 18-20 at the Sheraton Four Points in Greensburg, PA.
- The exec. Board decided to allot free one-year PCPA memberships to graduate students who register, attend, and pay for the conference!
- Treasurer's report reflects the total assets of \$15,871.22.
- The 2nd Annual Summer Book Club has been implemented as planned; 27 participants are enjoying and participating in this online opportunity.
- Membership has grown by 18 new professionals since March 2009. We are currently at 177 members.
- Topics for the 2009-2010 Keystone Seminars were discussed – Student Services Best Practices and Economic Challenges.
- The Grady Roberts Writing Award selection process has begun. Three readers are currently reviewing the submissions. Recipients will be announced at the conference.
- Some discussion of the best timing for the annual conference and conference location for 2010.
- Bylaws updates will be forthcoming. Webmaster position, constituencies commission position description, change of definition of graduate student verification (in light of the online application process), inclusion of the ACPA Equity and Inclusion statement in the PCPA Bylaws, and the addition of the Dr. Ron Lunardini Award.

The previous Executive Board Meeting was held at the 2009 conference site, the Four Points Sheraton in Greensburg, PA on **Thursday, April 30, 2009**. Following are the highlights:

- Discussion of PCPA membership online directory and strategies to notify membership should they wish to opt out of the directory or manage particular pieces of information.
- Joe Puzycki reported that the annual budget cycle of May 1 – April 30 is completed. Total assets of \$17,269.43.
- Membership Commission Chair, A. Valentine, reported 164 members.
- Kate Linder, Constituencies Chair, reported that she had prepared an article on the revised FERPA regulations for March PCPA newsletter. She also noted that Senate Bill No. 488 was passed in the Senate and is being forwarded; if this passes, impact will be on college and universities' to reflect a "Good Samaritan" policy.
- In a written report, Communications Commission Chair David Falletta thanked all who had submitted for the newsletter. Brief discussion about possibility of incorporating more pictures and video streaming in the newsletter. Next PCPA newsletter is July.
- Mary McGinnis, Professional Development Chair, reported that the Spring Keystone on comprehensive assessment presented by Dr. Jan Arminio, was successful. A special thank you to Lynne Burke and Gettysburg College for supporting this program. Dr. Sue Norton will lead the PCPA online Book Club discussion with *"Where I Am From: Student Affairs Practice from the Whole of Students' Lives."*
- In a written report from Jan Schumacher, the new officers were announced.
- Grady Roberts Writing Award update presented in writing by Dr. Linda Hall. Numerous efforts have been devoted to promoting the Award. It was also noted that the issue of accreditation for preparation programs especially in PA is being discussed.
- Webmaster Bryan Valentine reported that Wufoo has been working very well. Suggested to add a photo release to conference registration materials so that the website can be made more interactive.
- Conference 2009 had planning meeting scheduled following the Board meeting.
- Discussion of initiative of how to recognize incoming Board members and show appreciation for outgoing Board members. Motion passed to investigate.
- Motion passed to set financial ceiling for the PCPA Showcase presenters at the ACPA Conference; PCPA will cover the cost of two non-member registrations for the ACPA Conference.
- Dan Kennedy "passed the gavel" to Terry Wigle. who officially begins her term on May 1, 2009. Dr. Kennedy was thanked for his leadership.

Membership Update

(as of June 26, 2009)

Submitted by Amber Valentine,
Indiana University of Pennsylvania



PCPA Current Membership Database = 177 (+18 since March 24, 2009)

Listserv subscribers = 163

Institution Type

Two Year CC	24
Four Year Public	86
Four Year Private	63
Other	4

Membership Type

Emeritus	4
Associate	10
Regular	112 (+12)
Student	51 (+6)

Membership At-Large Representation

Two Year East	10 (+1)
Two Year West	13 (+1)
Four Year East Private	33 (+5)
Four Year West Private	45 (+4)
Four Year East Public	41 (+3)
Four Year West Public	45 (+4)

Expiration Dates

October 2009	133
October 2010	25
October 2011	3
October 2012	7
October 2013	3
October 2015	1
October 2017	1
Emeritus	4

Spotlight on our Members

Dr. Matthew R. Shupp

Director of Student Affairs, Penn State Brandywine

Matt received his bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in counseling (College Student Personnel) from Shippensburg University. He obtained his doctorate in Student Affairs Administrative Leadership from Widener University.



He is a National Certified Counselor as well as a Distance Credentialed Counselor and has been actively involved with PCPA since 2002, having co-chaired the 25th anniversary conference. In addition, Matt is currently the president-elect of PCPA.

From 1997-1998, Matthew toured with the international multicultural leadership program "Up with People". During this time, he traveled to 18 states in the United States, Canada, and 14 countries in Europe. He is an avid runner, and is training for his first marathon.

Ms. Amanda Ries

Area Coordinator, Seton Hill University



Amanda received her master's degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2006. She earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology at Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA.

At Seton Hill, Amanda also works with orientation and other first-year student programs. In addition, she acts as the Advisory Board Chairman to the Gamma Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Kappa sorority. This is Amanda's first year on the PCPA executive board, and she is looking forward to an exciting term as the Four-Year Private West MAL.

In addition to her work in higher education, she is a die-hard Steelers fan and is a certified Zumba instructor.

Do you know a potential PCPA member?

Forward a copy of this newsletter to him/her, along with a personal invite to join Pennsylvania's premier professional organization for College & University professionals and paraprofessionals.

Pennsylvania could soon require colleges to implement “Good Samaritan” policies

Kate Linder, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Student affairs professionals face an on-going challenge of developing and implementing effective policies to address students’ illegal and abusive use of alcohol. Colleges and universities utilize a variety of approaches – some campuses are “dry” with no alcohol permitted on campus, some are “semi-dry” with the presence of alcohol limited to specific areas on campus, and some permit alcohol use on campus with close monitoring to ensure adherence to the legal drinking ages.

Despite the varied approaches, the effects of alcohol abuse on campuses remain evident – students are transported for emergency medical care, alcohol bottles and cans litter communities, noise escalates, fights ensue, classroom performance suffers and harassment and violence disrupt the environment. In the worst case scenario, students die from alcohol poisoning or from mixing alcohol with other drugs.

The debate continues as to what approach represents the best practice for addressing alcohol abuse at colleges/universities. Do social norms campaigns deter potential drinkers? If the drinking age were lowered to 18 would the temptation to imbibe be less compelling? Does enforcement of strict penalties have the greatest impact on behavior change? Would a combination of “all of the above” make a difference?

No doubt, the answers to these questions will continue to be explored, but PA legislation may soon give guidance concerning a related question: “Should a person who breaks a PA liquor law face any consequences if s/he gets help for someone who is in danger of being seriously injured or dying?”

On March 31, the General Assembly of Pennsylvania amended PA Senate Bill No. 488 to propose that a person be immune from prosecution for a liquor law violation if: 1) law enforcement officials became aware of the

person’s violation only because they placed a call to help someone who required medical attention; 2) the caller believed that s/he was the first to seek assistance in order to prevent a death or serious injury; 3) the caller truthfully identified him/herself to the 911 operator; and 4) the caller remained with the person needing emergency medical assistance until health care providers arrived.

Currently PA Senate Bill No. 488 is being reviewed in the judiciary committee. If passed, the bill will prompt colleges

and universities to adopt a “good Samaritan” policy if they have not already done so. Under this policy, students who meet the above criteria would not be sanctioned by colleges or universities for an alcohol violation.

The potential benefit of implementing a “good Samaritan” policy is that students may more readily report a medical emergency without fear of suffering judicial consequences, thus minimizing the frequency of alcohol-related deaths and injuries. The potential deficit of such a policy is that, by eliminating judicial consequences, students may receive an unclear message about an institution’s commitment to addressing alcohol abuse and feel encouraged to drink. Also, campuses with “zero tolerance” for alcohol may have difficulty integrating a “good Samaritan” approach with their larger abstinence philosophy.

According to the U.S. Department of Education’s *Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention*, research concerning the impact of “good Samaritan” policies on student behavior is inconclusive. If Senate Bill No. 488 passes, it will be incumbent upon each PA college and university to assess their campus environment and determine the best method of introducing and implementing a “good Samaritan” policy.

On the Web:

Read the complete text of Senate Bill No. 488 at <http://www.legis.state.pa.us>

What's Happening Across the State?

Compiled by Brian Root
University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

Princeton names PSU top party school

Penn State recently earned the unfortunate title as Princeton Review's "top party school". College officials dispute the rankings, calling them "inaccurate" and a "popularity contest". READ [THIS](#) and [THIS](#)

Same sex partners of PA-system professors to get benefits

Pennsylvania's 14 state-owned universities will extend health benefits to faculty members' domestic partners, according to a tentative agreement reached in early July by the state-university system and its faculty union. READ [THIS](#)

Swine Flu impact felt among PA colleges

Dickinson College is one of many across the country already taking action amid concerns of a Swine Flu outbreak. Dickinson suspended a summer camp for high schoolers earlier this month after 32 students reported swine-flu like symptoms. READ [THIS](#) and [THIS](#)

University of Pittsburgh replaces 3,000 diplomas ruined by flood

A number of buildings on the Pitt campus suffered significant water damage, and more than 3,000 diplomas were ruined during a storm last month in Pittsburgh. READ [THIS](#)

Clarion unveils "virtual campus" amidst growth of online classes

Clarion University officials unveiled a new Virtual Campus, spotlighting online education opportunities. READ [THIS](#) and [THIS](#)

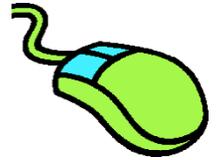
PA colleges awarded grants by PLCB to fight underage alcohol use, abuse

Twenty-four institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania will receive grants this year to support initiatives aimed at preventing underage and dangerous drinking. READ [THIS](#)

IUP begins final phase of \$270 million project

IUP broke ground July 7th on the final phase of its Residential Revival project to replace student housing on campus. READ [THIS](#)

Click on This



Compiled by Daniel Pretz

Indiana University of Pennsylvania Graduate Student

- On Tuesday, July 14, President Obama visited a community college near Detroit to discuss his plan for community colleges, which could include billions of dollars in additional funding with the stipulation that there should be an additional five million Americans earning degrees over the next decade. This article from the Chronicle explores the benefits and drawbacks to this move. [CLICK ON THIS!](#)
- Finlandia University found a unique way to make a win-win-win situation when they offered tuition coverage for local students in exchange for an unused school system building. This is one example of thinking outside of the box to create a mutually beneficial partnership. [CLICK ON THIS!](#)
- With economic instability plaguing the country, people are being encouraged to find ways to do more with less. This article from *Ezine* proposes eight traps that should be avoided to increase productivity at work. The concepts can be applied to many different work environments and can be used to spark creative thought about your own productivity strategy. [CLICK ON THIS!](#)

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(Click the above link)

Help our online social networking community grow.

Have a message or question you want to share with all of PCPA?

E-mail the listserv at

PCPA@LISTSERV.MESSIAH.EDU

A Note from the Professional Development Chair...

Mary McGinnis, Butler County Community College

We hope you will take advantage of training opportunities in the state this upcoming year. PCPA's Keystone Seminars provide affordable professional development opportunities right in your own back yard.

Currently, plans are being developed for November and March dates with the topics of "best practices in student affairs" and "economic challenges in student affairs". Anyone interested in presenting with these topics should contact [Mary McGinnis](#).

Employment Opportunities in Pennsylvania

Looking for Higher Ed employment opportunities across the state?
Below are a few postings that have found their way to job search websites in recent weeks.

[Area Coordinator](#)
[Elizabethtown College](#)

[Associate Director, Office of Admissions](#)
[Lehigh University](#)

[Admissions Counselor](#)
[Thiel College](#)

[Activities Assistant](#)
[Wilkes University](#)

[Residence Hall Coordinator](#)
[Lincoln University](#)

[Director of Student Activities & Freshman Orientation](#)
[DeSales University](#)

[Area Coordinator](#)
[Robert Morris University](#)

[Associate Director of Heinz School Career Services](#)
[Carnegie Mellon University](#)

[Student Recruiter](#)
[Community College of Allegheny County](#)

[Director for Student Affairs Research and Assessment](#)
[Pennsylvania State University](#)

[Assistant Director of Admissions](#)
[Dickinson College](#)

For a more comprehensive listing, visit:

HigherEdJobs.com - PA
[The Chronicle of Higher Education](http://TheChronicleofHigherEducation.com) - PA
StudentAffairs.com - PA
Academic360.com - PA
[ACPA](http://ACPA.org) - National
[NASPA](http://NASPA.org) - National
InsideHigherEd.com - National

*Be sure to submit your job postings for publication on the PCPA website.
E-mail your job posting information to PCPA webmaster Bryan Valentine at bvalen@pitt.edu.*

Newsletter submissions are encouraged and welcome. Submit all inquiries to Brian Root, PCPA communications commission chairperson, at bkr5@pitt.edu.

Pennsylvania College Personnel Association Executive Board 2009

<p>President Terry Wigle</p>	<p>Communications Commission Chair Brian Root</p>	<p>Historian Dr. Dwayne Hilton</p>	<p>Member At Large Four-Year Private, East Lynn Burke</p>
<p>President Elect Dr. Matthew Shupp</p>	<p>Constituencies Commission Chair Kate R. Linder</p>	<p>Professional Development Commission Chair Mary McGinnis</p>	<p>Member At Large Two-Year, West Kelly Carpenter</p>
<p>Past President Dr. Daniel Kennedy</p>	<p>Membership Commission Chair Amber N. Valentine</p>	<p>Member At Large: Four-Year Public, West Tedd Cogar</p>	<p>Member At Large Two-Year, East David Watters</p>
<p>Recorder Dr. Charmaine R. Strong</p>	<p>Faculty Liaison Dr. Linda Hall</p>	<p>Member At Large Four-Year Public, East Cindy Nguyen</p>	<p>Webmaster Bryan M. Valentine</p>
<p>Treasurer Joe Puzycki</p>	<p>Graduate Student Liaison Daniel Pretz</p>	<p>Member At Large Four-Year Private, West Amanda Ries</p>	
<p>Past Officers Advisory Committee Mary Lou Kennedy Victoria King-Garwood</p>	<p>NBCC Coordinator Tom Steiner</p>		

The Pennsylvania College Personnel Association does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, affectional/sexual orientation, or disability in any of its policies, procedures or practices. The non-discrimination policy covers membership and access to association programs and activities including, but not limited to, conferences, placement services, publications, and educational services.