

Sharing the Commonwealth

Volume 37, Issue 4
November 2012

An e-newsletter published by the Pennsylvania College Personnel Association

A LOOK BACK AT THE 2012 PCPA CONFERENCE



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The 2012 PCPA Conference is in the past, and according to the chair of this year's conference, Mr. David Greene, it was quite a success!

In his summary report of the conference, David noted, "As a CPA, we can be proud of the conference. There was a bit of a learning curve and with some adjustments, we can continue to improve the conference experience and ensure our members have a lower-cost means for professional development."

This year's conference boasted nearly double the number of attendees as last year's conference in Monroeville. There were 109 registered, paid attendees at this year's conference. The conference planning committee placed a significant emphasis on graduate students this year, even tabbing Sunday as a day for Graduate Students.

"Having Sunday focused on graduate students was an overwhelming success," David reported.

As is customary at the annual conference, a number of award-winners were announced and recognized:

- Outstanding New Professional – Mr. David Zlockie, Area Coordinator for Freshmen Students, Seton Hill University
- Ron Lunardini Award for Mentoring – **Mr. Matthew Shupp (pictured at right)**, Director of Student Affairs, Penn State Brandywine
- Joseph Merkle Outstanding Contribution to PCPA – Charmaine Strong, Dean of Students, Seton Hill University
- Grady Roberts Writing Award – Tara Bloom (Snyder), Assistant Director of Field Period Program and Internships, Keuka College

At this year's conference, a special service project was organized by Dr. Amber Racchini and Mr. Brian Root. The two solicited donated, signed copies of books writ-

ten by notable authors in the professional and sold raffle tickets throughout the conference. The raffle brought in \$173 with all proceeds being donated to the United Way of Carlisle.

The following people won books at the conference:

- Pope, Reynolds and Mueller (2004) *Multicultural Competence in Student Affairs* (signed by all three), won by Brian Root, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg
- Reynolds (2009) *Helping College Students* (signed by Reynolds), won by Amber Racchini from Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- *Contested Issues in Student Affairs* (signed by Kate Linder), won by Tatiana Diaz, Messiah College
- *Spirituality in Higher Education (New Directions for Teaching and Learning)* signed by John Lowery, won by Keira Wilson, Friends General Conference
- *Reflections on the 75th Anniversary of The Student Personnel Point of View* (signed by Kathleen Boyle, John Lowery, John Mueller), won by Keira Wilson, Friends General Conference
- * *Getting Involved: Making the Most of your 20s and 30s* (signed by Tom Baker), won by Bonnie Yake, West Chester University



PCPA CONFERENCE RECAP

RUEFLE SHARES EXPERIENCE IN HOPES OF INSPIRING OTHERS

By Francess Boshell, Graduate Assistant for Late Night Programming, West Chester Univ.

Oftentimes in Student Affairs, professionals get caught up in daily work activities. Many times, these professionals can lose touch with the original reasons for entering the student affairs field.

At this year's PCPA conference, there were many workshops facilitated by various professionals and graduate students. However, none were more powerful than Colleen Ruefle's keynote speech.

Ruefle, Vice President of Student Life and Dean of Students at LaRoche College, was the keynote speaker for this year's conference. Her speech was centered on the conference theme of Holistic Approach to Student Success. Throughout her career, it was clear that there was a holistic view to her student affairs experience.

Ruefle spoke about how student affairs professionals can assist students throughout their college experiences. She highlighted her time at Saint Vincent College and her mentor (Fr. Tom) who was the coordinator of Student Activities.

He helped her go from a shy freshman to a confident and active student leader. During this time, Fr. Tom influenced her to continue in the field through his approach with students and eventually lead



From L to R, PCPA President Amanda Ries, Colleen Ruefle, and conference chair David Greene.

to her graduate school at IUP, where she graduated in 1989.

Ruefle discussed how as professionals we have a responsibility to assist our students through the difficult times, but also to challenge them when necessary. She highlighted various professionals she had worked with who showed these qualities. One example was Scott Lang, a beloved basketball coach who died suddenly.

During his time with the LaRoche College, he challenged students to do their best, not just on the court but in their academic and personal lives. He had high standards for students and for himself as well. She spoke about how tragedy can unite a campus community and how it is important to be a strong

support system for not just college students but administrators and staff alike. Departments who work with students should work together to best serve the student populations. Collaboration is the key for student success. Although this can be challenging at times, the results can be seen through the many positive stories and experiences of former students.

We live in a time where higher education is constantly being questioned. From the costs to the issues of state and local funding, it can seem challenging to remind professionals of the importance of their roles. Colleen Ruefle's message reaffirmed why Student Affairs is essential but can ultimately help improve the lives of our students through a holistic approach.

PCPA CONFERENCE RECAP

GRAD STUDENTS SHARE FIRST-TIME CONFERENCE EXPERIENCES

With such a strong focus of this year's conference being on our graduate student population, we asked three graduate students to share their experiences for this issue of the PCPA Newsletter.

corey roberts-mcgrath

graduate assistant, community outreach, edinboro univ.

As counseling students, we are encouraged to get involved with professional organizations. After joining ACPA, I did a



Google search to find a state organization where I could get involved locally. I stumbled upon PCPA and took immediate interest in the conference, which was less than a month away. I discussed the conference with a few classmates and soon enough we were applying for funds and registering for the conference.

After a five hour drive through the autumn-colored hills of Pennsylvania from Edinboro to Carlisle, my colleagues and I checked in to the hotel and settled in for the evening. I wasn't quite sure what I was in for but I was excited to start my professional journey in student affairs.

At registration, I was greeted by smiling faces, a guidebook and a fancy name badge holder with "First-Time Attendee" attached to it. I dove right in, not wanting to miss a thing and hoping to meet some professionals from the Pittsburgh area.

The first session on how to make our professional development count got me pumped and ready to network, learn and participate. Kyle, one of my fellow colleagues, and I sat in on Dr. Bauman's workshop on balancing student development and customer service. **We had so much fun hearing about the experiences of other graduate students and we immediately felt like part of the student affairs family.** I then had the pleasure of meeting David Greene where many of us exchanged ideas on Multicultural issues. David encouraged our involvement and I am quite excited to stay involved with the Multicultural constituency group.

After lunch in town, I decided to attend the "First year out..." session where we had a chance to listen to the panel members discuss their stories as new professionals. It was eye-opening and extremely helpful. The next session I attended was the one session I knew I couldn't miss, "Mindfulness and professional development in higher [ed]."

I was really excited to hear Dr. Fielder and Dr. Mackenzie speak because I am very passionate on the subject and hope to one day incorporate mindfulness in my career with students. Listening to them speak, I had a serendipitous moment where I imagined myself on their side of the room educating a room of new professionals about mindfulness and college counseling.

That evening I participated in the Mentor/Mentee Meet and Greet where I met Kate Linder, Associate Dean of Students for Student Life & Community Engagement at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She helped answer many questions I had about the conference and entering the student affairs field. She also became a familiar face throughout the conference and I am glad to have met her. Following a very passionate keynote address, I danced for a bit with my new colleagues and soon found myself back in the room preparing for another eventful day.

Monday I discussed Women's issues, how to support LGBTQ students, and learned about the state of mind that is Assessment. Allison Shumar and Michael Mastalski made me excited to incorporate assessment into student affairs. I'm currently preparing assessment ideas for a few community outreach events I am planning as a Graduate Assistant.

Monday at lunch I had the pleasure of meeting a few characters, Todd Eiker and Bryan Koval, as well as Tom Steiner, who I eventually interviewed via email a few days after the conference. I was able to gain a lot of insight about the diverse world of student affairs and career counseling which was greatly appreciated.

If being in a room of people exchanging ideas about comprehensive peer mentor programs is your thing, then hopefully you didn't miss the "L.I.F.E. Lessons" session about Bloomsburg's new initiative. Having recently helped implement a peer mentor program at Edinboro University, it was refreshing to hear about the honest outcomes and to exchange ideas. I'm excited to see where they go with the program.

I attended a session about supervising millennials that afternoon, and I learned a lot about myself as a young adult and as a supervisor. It was one of those sessions that was immedi-

ately applicable to my professional life. There was a lot of honesty and genuine interest in that room.

Later, I attended the session where we could get more information on how to stay involved and I must say, after meeting so many inspiring people who were genuinely interested in helping all of the graduate students, I just wanted to help in any way possible.

I foresee a long future with PCPA because of this conference. Everyone I met reminded me of why I am entering this field.

fred j. hodges jr. graduate assistant, student affairs, edinboro univ.

If you were to tell me, "Fred, in one word, describe your PCPA conference experience," my answer would be – "Enlightening".

As a graduate student, this was the first time I went to a conference such as this. I am grateful for the welcoming arms of the PCPA executive



board and the conference committee. I felt welcomed and this made it easy for me to erase all shyness and any other barriers which would place someone such as myself in their personal shell.

Secondly, I learned so much at the sessions I attended. I was able to take those things I learned and apply them not only to my position as a Graduate Assistant,

but towards my everyday life. The conference was really geared towards graduate students, and I think this will continue to bring more students in the future.

My experiences at the PCPA conference have reaffirmed that I have chosen the right career path. I have always been taught if your heart is not in it, then it's just a job.

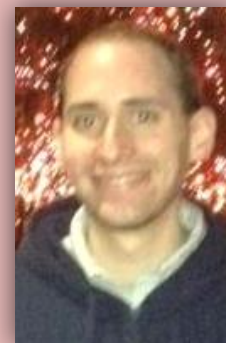
barry handler residence life coordinator, penn state

I was really excited to attend my first PCPA conference this year! I was not sure what to expect, but was hopeful that I would have an enjoyable time. I have been to regional and national conferences before and have come to enjoy conferencing for the many professional development and networking opportunities that I have been afforded.

As a first-time attendee, I decided to participate in the mentor-mentee

program as a way to ensure that I would leave the conference with at least one new contact. Little did I know, that hour of chatting about our professional experiences and goals evolved into casual check-ins during the conference and continued conversations since the conference.

Attending a smaller-scale conference than I am used to did not disappoint



at all. I can confidently say that I took a nugget of knowledge from every session I attended and every conversation that I had with fellow colleagues. I look forward to getting more involved in the future and attending

more conferences and professional development opportunities through PCPA.

PCPA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

CONFESSIONS OF A PCPA NEWBIE

By Christina Wood, Associate Director of Recruitment, Harrisburg Area Community College

As 2012 draws to a close, it's a time for PCPA to reflect on the many things we've accomplished as an organization. We can look back on the friends we've made, the teaching moments we've fostered, the current and future student affairs professionals we've helped to develop and mentor through our programming. These are the moments that we live for.

One of the true marks of a healthy and successful organization is its ability to attract new and enthusiastic members ready and willing to roll up their sleeves and get involved. I was able to catch up with one of PCPA's newest members, Howard Alexander, Career Advisor at HACC - Central Pennsylvania's Community College.

1. Why did you decide to join PCPA?

I joined PCPA because I had two friends, Morgan and Christina, ask me to join PCPA. But the truth is, I heard a lot of good things about PCPA and I wanted to see it for myself. I had also taken a break from being a part of other associations and decided it was time to get involved.

2. What do you hope to get out of your membership?

I am hoping to develop more networks within the student affairs community. I believe being a part of PCPA would allow me to develop such networks and hopefully additional mentoring opportunities. Also, I want to learn what others are doing in the field and see how I can apply that to my job to help students continue to be successful. Hopefully I will get a chance to present on a topic at one of the PCPA conferences in the future, and get more involved.

3. Tell us about your experience at the PCPA conference. How do you feel the conference helped you grow professionally?

The PCPA conference was very welcoming. I felt I learned a lot from the breakout sessions. The conference allowed me to self-reflect and think about where I am at in my profession. I felt I grew, because it allowed me to think about ways I can map out my career in order to reach my goal in higher education.

The breakout session with the panel of VPs really opened my eyes and helped me understand what I need to do in order to get to a dean position. It also made me think about teaching.

My last breakout session, which focused on a project that the Community College of Philadelphia is doing, made me think about the students I currently work with and made me wonder if such a program could work here at HACC, or could be developed within the community. Overall, I think every breakout session really expanded my knowledge and is something I put in my knowledge box.

4. Why would you recommend PCPA to other student affairs professionals?

I would recommend PCPA to others because of the connections you could make. I wish I would have been involved in PCPA in graduate school. However, I think PCPA has a lot of energetic leaders that will encourage others to take a more active role.



Not a member of PCPA yet? What are you waiting for? Join Howard and a many other exuberant higher education professionals in Pennsylvania today! For more information, or to become a member of PCPA, visit us on the web at www.pcpa.net.

INSPIRING COMMUNITIES
OF WELLBEING

VEGAS

acpa 2013

Get all the details [here!](#)

PCPA BOARD MEETING BRIEFS

Prepared by Charmaine Strong, PCPA Recorder

Full report of minutes and supporting documents available online at PCPA.net.

The Executive Board Meeting was held prior to the Annual Conference on Saturday, October 13, 2012 at the Hotel Carlisle. Following are the highlights:

To ensure continued strong conferences, the President-Elect will assume co-chair responsibilities. David Greene will serve as the 2013 Conference Co-Chair and Amber Racchini will also co-chair. Position descriptions will be updated. Todd Eicker and Dave Watters will review the by-laws and constitution for potential amendments and proposed language will be sent to the membership for an electronic vote.

Dr. Kelley Kenney, Kutztown University, was appointed Faculty Liaison.

The Executive Board will continue having two Graduate Student Liaisons – Allison Shumar will network throughout the conference to find a first-year graduate student to fill the vacancy.

Amber Racchini reported total assets of \$17,200.00; noted that most of the costs associat-

ed with the Annual Conference are not included in the budget report. Dr. Racchini will prepare a report of expenses and income from the conference and present it at the next Board meeting. Bryan Koval will assume the Treasurer's responsibilities once the finances from the conference have been finalized.

Based on conversations at the ACPA Summer Leadership meeting, it was determined that two individuals should be on the financial accounts. B. Koval will be added to the account.

Morgan Rizzardi, Membership Chair, is updating the membership brochure with new pictures and the ACPA logo, is creating a recruitment committee, and will be outreaching to expired memberships.

David Greene, Constituencies Chair, is working on a draft of the equity and inclusion statement.

David Zlockie is working with Ronika Money-Adams to organize the January Key-

stone at Penn State Brandywine. The Keystone is scheduled for 11 January

2013. Topic: Risk, Reward, and Challenges of Hosting a Conference.

Dave Kennedy laid the foundation on the website to pay online.

Networking Nights are in the works! Stay tuned.

Tom Steiner, who has served PCPA for many, many years (including President), will be granted Emeritus Status, upon his retirement from Westmoreland County Community College in spring 2013.

Board discussed benefits of becoming a dual member with ACPA which would include the ability to use ACPA's state tax identification number. Over the past two years, ACPA has made changes to the dual membership process including the ability for a CPA to withdraw its monies from ACPA at any point. Amanda Ries and Amber Racchini will follow up on questions posed by the Board before dual membership will be decided.

Board approved the motion to pay the conference registration fee for the President (or his/her designee, who must be a member of the PCPA Executive Board) to attend the ACPA annual national conference.

Stay Tuned...

**A one-day Keystone Seminar
will be January 11, 2013, at
Penn State Brandywine.**

**Topic: Risk, Reward, and Chal-
lenges of Hosting a Conference**

More details to come soon!

Send your submissions for the PCPA Newsletter to:

PCPA Communications Commission Chair

Brian Root +++ bkr5@pitt.edu

PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

TO: PCPA EXECUTIVE BOARD
 FROM: AMBER RACCHINI, TREASURER
 RE: TREASURER'S REPORT (June 16, 2012 to October 12, 2012)
 DATE: October 12, 2012

PCPA CHECKING ACCOUNT

CASH BALANCE 6/15/2012 \$ 13,658.89

CASH RECEIPTS:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| Membership | 6/20/2012 | \$ | 50.00 |
| Membership | 8/30/2012 | \$ | 80.00 |
| Membership | 10/8/2012 | \$ | 250.00 |
| Membership | 10/8/2012 | \$ | 285.00 |
| Conference | 10/8/2012 | \$ | 1,345.00 |
| Conference | 10/8/2012 | \$ | 1,075.00 |
| Total Cash Receipts | | \$ | 3,085.00 |

TOTAL BALANCE + RECEIPTS + INTEREST 10/12/2012 \$ 16,743.89

CASH DISBURSEMENTS:

| DATE | CK# | ACTION | PAYEE | AMOUNT |
|--------------------|------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 6/1/2012 | N/A | SERVICE CHARGE | PNC BANK | \$ 3.00 |
| 6/18/2012 | DC | E-board Dinner | Market Cross Pub | \$ 153.11 |
| 6/19/2012 | 1539 | E-board Retreat Supplies | Amanda Ries | \$ 38.67 |
| 6/25/2012 | DC | Conference Deposit | Hotel Carlisle | \$ 1,000.00 |
| 6/25/2012 | DC | E-Board Retreat | Hotel Carlisle | \$ 532.11 |
| 7/2/2012 | N/A | SERVICE CHARGE | PNC BANK | \$ 3.00 |
| 7/26/2012 | 1540 | West Networking Night | Hard Rock Café Pgh | \$ 250.00 |
| 7/27/2012 | 1541 | ACPA Summer Leadership Mtg | Amber Racchini | \$ 711.88 |
| 8/1/2012 | N/A | SERVICE CHARGE | PNC BANK | \$ 3.00 |
| 8/4/2012 | DC | Summer Leadership Recap | Valley Dairy | \$ 17.81 |
| 9/4/2012 | N/A | SERVICE CHARGE | PNC BANK | \$ 3.00 |
| 9/10/2012 | 1542 | Overpayment for Conference | Justin Brown | \$ 40.00 |
| 10/3/2012 | DC | Sympathy Flowers (Koval) | Larese Florist | \$ 53.00 |
| 10/8/2012 | DC | Conference Ribbons | Name Badge Prod. | \$ 129.60 |
| Total Costs | | | | \$ 2,938.18 |

10/12/2012 TOTAL BALANCE \$ 13,805.71

PCPA SAVINGS ACCOUNT

6/15/2012 CASH BALANCE \$ 3,393.73

CASH RECEIPTS:

| DATE | CK# | ACTION | AMOUNT |
|----------------------------|-----|----------|---------------|
| 6/29/2012 | | INTEREST | \$ 0.14 |
| 7/31/2012 | | INTEREST | \$ 0.15 |
| 8/31/2012 | | INTEREST | \$ 0.14 |
| 9/28/2012 | | INTEREST | \$ 0.13 |
| Total Cash Receipts | | | \$.56 |

10/12/2012 TOTAL BALANCE + INTEREST \$ 3,394.29

CASH DISBURSEMENTS: \$ N/A

10/12/2012 TOTAL CASH BALANCE \$ 3,394.29

10/12/2012 TOTAL ASSETS \$ 17,200.00



PCPA Conference 2012

Pennsylvania College Personnel Association Executive Board 2012

President
Amanda Ries

Constituencies Commission Chair
David Greene

Member At Large:
Four-Year Public, West
Daniel Pretz

Member At Large
Two-Year, East
Christina Wood

President Elect
Dr. Amber Sherman Racchini

Membership Commission Chair
Morgan Rizzardi

Member At Large
Four-Year Public, East
Ronika Money-Adams

Webmaster
Dr. Daniel Kennedy

Past President
David Watters

Faculty Liaison
Dr. Kelley Kenney

Recorder
Dr. Charmaine R. Strong

Graduate Student Liaison
Allison Shumar

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**Professional Development
Commission Chair**
David Zlockie

Member At Large
Two-Year, West
Ryan Cunningham

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