



OCPA News

The Official Newsletter of the Ohio College Personnel Association

Fall 2006

President's Pen

A recent email exchange with another OCPA Executive Council member got me thinking about how little we know about colleagues with whom we often spend considerable time in meetings, at conferences or other related events. Sure, we've become familiar with their job titles and may be able to recite bits and pieces of their career histories. But can we say that we *really* know them beneath the surface of their job-related or volunteer identities? And how do some of the connections we establish in the workplace and volunteer roles impact or shape our careers, or even our personal lives?

The answer to the first question is dependent, in part, upon the context of the relationship and the degree to which the individuals choose to divulge about themselves. The discovery of common interests and experiences often paves the way for the creation of friendships that span both professional and personal levels, and continue regardless of distance and time. We stay in touch by email and exchange holiday greetings, and while some won't admit it, others acknowledge that they attend annual conferences primarily to get reacquainted and socialize with colleagues from graduate programs, previous institutions, or committees and boards.

There's no denying the value we place on networking across the profession. New graduate students are strongly encouraged to seek out mentors, and faculty and staff at all levels embrace opportunities for active membership in student affairs organizations. There's also no denying that "what one knows" is key to a successful career, but perhaps it should be noted that "who one knows" can be nearly as important! Lest you think that my comments imply that these relationships are little more than a means to an end, allow me to tell you briefly about my most treasured professional connections.

In 1983, I was hired at Wright State by a woman who would be my supervisor, and over time, would also become my mentor and a dear, trusted friend. I eventually succeeded her in that role upon her retirement. Years later, I was able to recommend another individual who had also been initially hired by my mentor to succeed me in the same role. We, too, have become good friends in addition to sharing our professional experiences. The story is doesn't end here. All three of us are also connected by way of our relationship to the first person who served in this position at the university; a remarkable and vibrant woman who at age 90, inspires us on a daily basis. Earlier this fall, the

three of us traveled to her home on Cape Cod to inform her that a wonderful space in our Student Union would be named in her honor. While there, we also met her grandson and great-granddaughter, talked about her life on the Cape and reflected on our rare friendship and shared history. I returned home mindful that my life, not just my career, has been enriched as a result of having these people in it.



This issue of the OCPA newsletter includes a glimpse into the backgrounds and experiences of your OCPA Executive Council. You may already know some individuals through your campus interactions, OCPA or another organization. If and when an opportunity presents itself for you to make a connection with any of us, I do hope that you'll learn more than a name, title and institutional affiliation. I hope, instead, that you'll make a connection that has the potential to enhance your professional and personal life.

Best Regards,

Kathy Morris

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OCPA/OASPA Conference Preview

We hope you will join your colleagues in the State of Ohio to celebrate the 5th anniversary of our organizations' partnership to provide the premier conference for Student Affairs professionals in the state. We will convene January 31 through February 2, 2007 at the Radisson Hotel in Worthington, Ohio. For this year's conference our theme will be **"Locating the Center: Five Dimensions of the Student Affairs Profession."**

Highlights:

- The return of the Silent Auction
- A new post-conference workshop opportunity
- Celebration of our various professional organizations that serve the state and all aspects of

our profession

- Great vendors to showcase their goods and services
- Amazing keynote speakers!
- Resume Review
- Networking with colleagues
- And much, much more!

The Diversity Pre-Conference for OCPA this year will focus on Diversity Competence in Student Affairs. Participants will have the opportunity to reflect upon a wide array of diversity issues and to learn about how to enhance their competence with diversity issues in a holistic manner.

Break-out sessions will include topics on oppression and privilege, class issues, and lesbian, gay, bisexual,

transgender, inter-sexed, queer and questioning issues.

Program Proposals are now open and encouraged! Check out the OCPA website www.ocpaonline.org to submit your proposal. The Deadline for program proposals is **November 17**.

Watch for a special edition of the OCPA newsletter to outline details, and continue to check the OCPA website for constant updates and information. We look forward to seeing you in 2007!

For more information, or to get involved, contact Kate Porubcansky, the 2007 OCPA Conference Chair at kporubcansky@otterbein.edu or 614-823-3202.

Student Affairs: Reflecting Today...Creating Tomorrow!

By Nicole Ray Coy and Johni Amos

The 2006 Careers in Student Affairs Conference held at Columbus College of Art & Design on Saturday, October 21 hosted 185 students, faculty, and staff representing 34 colleges and universities. Undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, graduate students, and professionals represented several institutions in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Virginia.

The conference provided undergrads the opportunity to network with representatives from over 25 student affairs/student personnel graduate programs and obtain information about admission requirements/deadlines, financial aid, and graduate/teaching assistantships. On behalf of OCPA, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to all of the colleges and universities that helped make the 2006 Graduate School Fair a success.



The morning was off to a great start with Rose Marie Ackerman, Program Manager for the Career and Academic Planning House at the University of Toledo, who served as our keynote speaker. Advice given by Rose Marie, "don't hold back, don't be afraid to try something new, gain as much experience as possible, to venture into the unknown, go where you have not gone before, it could land you an awesome job somewhere you never expected."

Conference sessions included:

- Every Undergraduate is Majoring in Student Affairs: Learn How Your Unique Experiences Have Prepared You For Graduate School
- The Power of Political Savvy in Higher Education
- The Career Paths of Four Men in Student Affairs
- Loving Student Affairs: Making the Most Out of Your Graduate Program Experience
- About CSP Programs: Ask CSP Faculty
- Choosing Your Path: Graduate School or Work in Student Affairs



- Working in Student Affairs: There is Something for Everyone

Participants referred to conference presenters as having optimistic and engaging perspectives that reaffirmed their belief about their desire to enter the student affairs field.

We want to extend special thanks to each of the Executive Council members who helped make this event a success. In addition, we want to thank Rose Marie Ackerman, Dwayne Todd, Daniel LaFuente, Christie Wilkerson, Ryan Reinhart, Karen Shultz, Vik

Arun Kumar, Aramark Dining Services, and all of the CCAD undergraduate students that volunteered their time to help us successfully execute the Careers in Student Affairs conference.

We can honestly say that participants left the Careers in Student Affairs conference feeling excited about OCPA and looking ahead with enthusiasm to a Career in Student Affairs!



Get to Know Your OCPA 06-07 Executive Council

Kathy Morris, President

I serve as the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services, a new role which involves the coordination of enrollment management initiatives within our division and in cooperation with key academic and academic support units on campus. Prior to moving into this position last August, I worked for ten years as the Assistant Vice President, focusing largely on the division's auxiliary operations, including Residence Services and the Student Union, along with Campus Recreation, Event Services and Student Activities. I also served as Director of the Student Union, Assistant Director, and Coordinator of Student Activities, the position that first brought me to the university in 1983. Prior to my career at WSU, I spent two years at the University of Findlay.

I'm a dyed-in-the-wool Ohioan. I was born and raised in the state, and have both degrees from Ohio institutions. My bachelor's degree is from BGSU and master's degree is from OSU.

My husband and I have four children, three of whom are Wright State seniors! Our youngest is a middle-school student who recently became a teenager.

Tracy Benner, President-Elect

I am currently the Director of Residence Life at Otterbein College where I have worked for the past seven years. Prior to working at Otterbein, I was the Assistant Director of Residence Life at Muskingum College for three years. I worked at SUNY-Geneseo as a Hall Director the year before, which was my first professional position after completing my Master's degree at Indiana State University in Terre Haute where I was an Assistant Hall Director for two years in Lincoln Quad. I completed my undergraduate degree at Wilmington College (Go Quakers!) where I majored in Spanish. My original career goal was to become an athletic trainer for a pro football

team, but later thought about teaching math or Spanish and finally decided I had enough credits to graduate with a Spanish major but I would go to graduate school to work in student affairs! Like most of us, I figured out my career path by being an overly involved student and participating in Greek life, student government and a variety of campus activities.

I grew up in northeast Ohio in the small town of Sullivan, near Ashland, Wooster and Oberlin. I have two younger brothers, one of whom attends Kent State as a first year political science major and the other who lives in Las Vegas with his wife and practices law.

Michael Griest, Secretary and Records

I am Coordinator for Student Activities and the Student Center at Urbana University. Prior to accepting this assignment in August of 2006, I held positions in Residence Life, Student Activities and Health Education at Wittenberg University and Baldwin Wallace College. I completed his BS in Rehabilitation Services at Wright State University in 1998 and his M.Ed. in Adult Learning and Development at Cleveland State University in 2000. I have served the OCPA board for 4 years as Workshop Chair, Secretary and Membership Chair. I have also served as a volunteer or board member for BACCHUS & GAMMA Area 7, NACA Midwest Region, The Ohio Drug Free Coalition and SOCHE.

Outside of student affairs, I work as a Weight Watchers Group Leader and Trainer in the Dayton area. Having lost 200 pounds in the last 5 years, I frequently speak at conferences, colleges and health affairs about exercise and weight loss. I have also volunteered extensively with Ohio 4-H and Teen institute programs as a counselor and mentor. I got married in July of 2006, and my wife Patty and I have recently relocated to a new home.

Erica Lee, Treasurer

I have served on the Executive Council of OCPA since 2001. I currently serve as the Treasurer and, in the past, have been involved with the newsletter, government relations, Careers in Student Affairs Conference, workshops, and various other OCPA activities. I am a member of the Student Affairs staff in the School of Allied Medical Professions at The Ohio State University. I earned my Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts from The Ohio State University. Prior to returning to Ohio State, I advised at Miami University and the Columbus College of Art and Design. In my free time, I enjoy traveling, jogging, and quilting.

Patrick Dymarkowski, Member-at-Large—2 Year Institution

I work in the Enrollment Services Office the Findlay-area Campus of Owens Community College. My primary duties are advising Arts & Sciences majors and Transfer students, as well as numerous admissions and recruiting duties. I received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Toledo and a Master of Arts Degree in College Student Personnel from Bowling Green State University. I have been employed with Owens for four years. I am originally from Toledo and currently reside in Findlay.

Vik Arunkumar, Member-at-Large—4-Year Institution

Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars.



That has been my motto in life. I am the Community Director for the Village and University Park Apts at Wright State University. I am originally from India and completed my undergraduate in Electrical Engineering there. I have been at Wright State since July 2004. Prior to this, I was a Graduate Hall Director at Texas A&M University for a year. I graduated with an M. Ed. in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Wright State University in June 2006 and have served on the OCPA Executive Council since June.

Get to Know Your OCPA 06-07 Executive Council, cont'd.

Dafina Stewart, Faculty Liaison

I am an Assistant Professor of Higher Education and Student Affairs at Bowling Green State University. Prior to joining the BG faculty last fall 2005, I spent three years as a faculty member in the College Student Personnel program at Ohio University and was a visiting professor for one year at Ohio State University after completing my doctorate. I received my master's and doctorate degrees in Higher Education and Student Affairs from The Ohio State University in 1998 and 2001, respectively. I have also been at Kenyon College as the Multicultural Programming Coordinator and at Otterbein College as a Graduate Hall Director. My undergraduate degree is from Kalamazoo College (Michigan) in sociology. Despite all that Midwest education, I was born and raised in New York City and have succumbed to the reality after 14 years that I'm not getting back to the East Coast anytime soon. My research interests include identity development and spirituality, the experiences of African American college students, and multicultural services on campus. I've been with the OCPA Board as the Faculty Liaison since 2002-2003.

On a personal note, I am the proud mom of daughter, Makeda, engaged to be married (don't ask when - we don't know!), and I do the Sudoku puzzle every week in the Toledo Free Press!



Ann Wright, External Relations Coordinator

I earned my bachelors degree from Purdue University before coming to Wright State University to pursue my Master's in Student Affairs in Higher Education. After my graduation in June, I started my career in the College of Engineering and Computer Science at Wright State University where I am the Student Enrollment Manager.

Carrie Wissinger, Newsletter Coordinator

I have been a member of OCPA since September 2003 (newsletter coordinator since September 2005), when I started my master's degree in Higher Education Administration and Student Personnel at Kent State University. My undergraduate degree is from Clarion University of Pennsylvania. Originally from PA, I decided to move to Ohio to get a fresh start and a new perspective on life! It's the best decision I ever made! I'm currently a financial aid counselor at Baldwin-Wallace College, after spending time as an admissions counselor for Ohio State's ATI campus in Wooster.



In my "spare" time I enjoy watching LOST and Prison Break, and planning a wedding to my Ohio boy Ben next September.

Jennifer Grube Vestal, Development Co-Chair

BA - Miami University
MA - Ohio State University
I became involved with OCPA as a graduate student at OSU. I held the appointed position of Membership Chair and became a lifetime member of the organization in the mid-1990s. I have worked in Residence Life, Orientation, Registration & Academic Advising, Disability Services, and Academic Support at the following institutions; Miami University, Kenyon College, The Ohio State University and currently Denison University.

More recently I have been involved with OCPA as a Co-Chair for the Conference Program selection in 2005 and Conference Chair of the 2006 OCPA/OASPA conference held this past February.

Kate Porubcansky, Annual Conference

I work at Otterbein College as the Assistant Dean of Students and Director of the Center for Student Involvement. Prior to arriving at Otterbein in 2003, I completed my Master's Degree at Ohio State University in the Higher Education Program. While at Ohio State, I also worked in the Ohio Union and Student Activities office. I am originally from Dayton, Ohio and have a Bachelor's Degree in History and Political Science from Marquette University.

Baldwin-Wallace Campus Update

Submitted by Robin Gagnow

The Office of Residence Life at Baldwin-Wallace College is proud to introduce the following new members of our team:

Todd Heft joins our team as the Area Coordinator for Apartments/ Coordinator for Student Conduct. Todd's previous experiences include serving as Hall Director at Ferris

State and Graduate Hall Director at Eastern Michigan University.

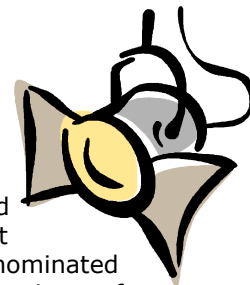
Trinity Jeter joins our team as the new Area Coordinator for Southside Area. Trinity brings a wealth of experiences from The Ohio State University and Denison College.

In addition, Baldwin-Wallace College brought in five new graduate Hall Directors: Mick Reynolds (Kenyon

College), Megan Igoe (Salisbury University), Ron Alcorn (Hiram College), Joanne Tanner (Baldwin-Wallace College) and Natsuko Tohyama (University of Wisconsin-Madison). Both Mick and Megan are working on their master's degrees at Kent State University and Natsuko will be working on her master's degree at Bowling Green State University.



Graduate Student Spotlight—Sarah Graham



OCPA is proud to recognize Sarah Graham as the 3rd graduate student spotlighted in our newsletter! Sarah will graduate from Wright State University's master's program this June. Sarah hails from Hilliard, OH and received her bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University. Sarah's career goals are to pursue work in a student activities or student judicial services role.

Kathy Morris' reasons for nominating Sarah were plentiful! Kathy shares that Sarah has really made the most of her graduate experience at Wright State, and has said 'yes' to every opportunity to learn something new about different departments within our division.

Kathy continues, "Sarah was born to be a student affairs professional! I met her when she was a student at the Newark Campus of OSU and Central Ohio Technical College, and knew right away that she possessed the traits we look for in successful graduate students. She got a jump start in the profession by attending the 2003 OCPA Careers in Student Affairs Conference with her then-supervisor and mentor, John Berry, Dean of the OSU - Newark/COTC campus (and Past President of OCPA). That experience, coupled with significant senior leadership roles in student government and the

program board, among others, kept her on the path to a career in higher education.

Before she finished her bachelor's degree in 2005, her exceptional organizational and administrative skills had opened the door to include paraprofessional roles at the OSU - Newark/COTC's Office of Student Activities. In fact, she served as an OCPA intern and assisted in the planning and presentation of the 2004 Support Staff Conference. In preparation for graduate school, Sarah also did her homework and researched graduate assistantship opportunities when applying to Wright State University's Student Affairs in Higher Education program, and secured a position in the Office of Student Judicial Services and Greek Affairs.

In her role as GA, Sarah has been responsible for serving as a conduct officer for student judicial hearings, and assists the staff in communicating policies and procedures in the university's code of conduct via presentations and other special programs. She facilitates educational workshops on topics that include academic integrity, ethics, hazing and other student issues, and assists with the training, preparation and advisement of judicial panelists, including faculty and staff. Her

supervisor, Gary Dickstein, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Director of Student Judicial Services, nominated Sarah to serve as an intern for the 2006 Association for Student Judicial Affairs (ASJA) Conference, an opportunity that enabled her to attend the national event in Clearwater, Florida. In addition to her GA duties, Sarah has completed practicum and internships in the Office Student Activities and Office of Residence Services, respectively, and has volunteered for numerous campus events and is a member of the Student Organization Budget Committee, a student-led group that reviews proposals and allocates funds to WSU's subsidized student organizations.

Wright State University has benefited from Sarah's contributions as a graduate assistant, and the staff in student affairs are confident that she has a promising future ahead!

If you would like to nominate a graduate student for the next Graduate Student Spotlight, please complete the nomination form, available at www.ocpaonline.org.

OCPA/OASPA Awards

OCPA and OASPA have a proud tradition of honoring individuals and programs in Ohio colleges and universities who make a difference in the lives of students, faculty, staff and alumni. We are pleased to offer a variety of awards encompassing many aspects of the Student Affairs profession. All awards are open to individuals in Higher Education. The nominees do not have to be a member of either organizations. In addition, an individual could receive an award being sponsored by OCPA and

OASPA. On Behalf of OCPA & OASPA, we hope that you will take the time to nominate your colleagues and friends.

The OCPA/OASPA Awards are available online. **The deadline to apply/nominate is Friday, January 5, 2007.** Recipients of the awards will be announced on February 1, 2007 at the annual Awards Ceremony during the OCPA/OASPA Annual Conference.

OCPA Awards:

- Phillip A. Tripp Distinguished Service Award
- Gerald L. Saddlemire Mentor Award
- Mark G. Noffsinger New

Professional Award

- Innovative Program Award
- Fayetta Paulsen Accomplished Leader Award
- Cultural Diversity Award
- Robert F. Rodgers Graduate Student of the Year Award
- Undergraduate Student Leader Award

OASPA Awards:

- Gerald L. Saddlemire Award
- Distinguished Service Award
- William Nestor Presidential Award
- Outstanding Contribution to Literature and Research Award

More information available at www.ocpaonline.org



Silent Auction Returns!

The Silent Auction at the 2006 OCPA/OASPA Conference was a great success! Please help us continue the success by collecting items and donations for the 2nd Annual OCPA/OASPA Silent Auction.

Items can be representative of an institution (clothing, spirit items), an alum (books, movies, signed photos), an event at your school (tickets to an athletic event, dramatic performance, concert, etc.).

Proceeds from the Silent Auction benefit future professional development opportunities for the professionals in the field of student affairs. For more info, contact Jennifer Grube Vestal, Development Co-Chair, at vestal@denison.edu.

Important OCPA Dates

- November 17th—Deadline for OCPA/OASPA Conference Program Proposals
- January 5th—Deadline for OCPA/OASPA Awards Applications/Nominations
- January 31st—February 2nd—OCPA/OASPA Conference
- February 16th—OCPA Newsletter Deadline



Inspiration from Rose Marie Ackerman

Submitted by Nicole Ray Coy

"I looked up the definition of a mentor and found a few phrases, such as **respectful, nurturing, encouraging, committed, holistic,** and **proactive,** that exemplify how I feel about my mentors... This is what a mentor does for us, they guide us when we don't know the way, they support us and help us along, nudge us when we need it, hold us up; even dry those tears when we have them.

Use your faculty to meet and greet with other faculty from the copious institutions.... do as many practical experiences as possible. Don't settle for the same old normal areas, expand your horizon. I know it is cliché, but go out side your comfort zone, do something you don't feel extremely knowledgeable about; you might find that spark or passion you didn't know existed.... I can just speculate on what the future holds. But whatever it is, give it all you have, don't hold back, don't be

afraid to try something new, gain as much experience as possible, to venture into the unknown, go where you have not gone before, it could land you an awesome job somewhere you never expected."

Rose Marie Ackerman, Program Manager for the Career and Academic Planning House at the University of Toledo, served as the Keynote Speaker at this year's Careers in Student Affairs Conference.

www.ocpaonline.org

2006-2007 OCPA Executive Council Roster

Elected Positions

President

Kathy Morris
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Enrollment Services
Wright State University
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President-Elect

Tracy Benner
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Past President

Dwayne Todd
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Secretary and Records

Michael Griest
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Treasurer

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Member At Large – 4 Yr Private

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Appointed Position

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Professional Development Team

Careers in Student Affairs Conference

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Johni Amos (Co-Chair)
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Annual Conference

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Awards

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