

Sharing the Commonwealth

An e-newsletter published by the Pennsylvania College Personnel Association

April 2011

Spring has Sprung!

Dr. Matthew Shupp, PCPA President, Penn State - Brandywine

Spring is certainly in the air, which is a welcomed change considering, once again, the winter we've had on the eastern side of the state. As I sit here and reflect on the past year, a year ago I was quite anxious as I prepared to assume the presidency of our fine organization. I still struggle with believing the old adage that "time flies when you are having fun." I think, in my opinion and experience, it is more reasonable to simply say "time flies." But this year has certainly passed by very quickly. And as I reflect, change has been a consistent theme for our organization. We've seen changes at our own institutions, changes in budget allocations that will undoubtedly impact how we serve our students as we move forward, even changes within our own organization. Change is constant and I think what is most challenging about change is that it is rarely predictable. Oh, how nice it would be to have a crystal ball to foresee its outcome! Because of its uncertainty, we are forced to rise to the challenge and meet the change head-on. I am grateful to all of you in the organization that have recently joined PCPA, stepped up to assist with planning our annual conference, assumed a leadership position or expressed interest in doing so. Our organization is very special, and I am honored to have been part of it and feel privileged to pass the torch on to our President-elect, Jessica Koval, who will take the reins on May 1. Thank you, all, for your continued service.

New Beginnings

Jessica D. Koval, PCPA President-Elect, Penn State - University Park

The time has certainly flown by for me as well! Serving as the president-elect under Matthew's guidance for the past year has been extremely helpful and has taught me so much about this organization. We were fortunate enough to spend time together learning more about ACPA and the all of the opportunities within the organization while at the leadership retreat in Las Vegas this past summer. Taking part in sessions and getting to know leaders from other states has prepared me for my time as President of PCPA. It's great to know that I am a part of a much larger support system and have resources all over the state and all over the country. I am very much looking forward to working with Diane Williams as we prepare for the Annual Conference, working with the exec board as we continue to serve our colleagues across PCPA, and continuing to strengthening my relationship with Matthew and ensuring that this leadership transition is smooth. Thank you so much for entrusting me with the responsibility for continuing PCPA's legacy. I am excited for the work we will be doing together!

PCPA Executive Board Elections Forthcoming

Elections for the 2011 PCPA Executive Board will be happening later this spring. Information about the voting process, as well as biographies of the nominees will be distributed soon through the PCPA list-serve. The nominees are:

President Elect

David Watters, Community College of Philadelphia

Recorder

Charmaine Strong, Seton Hill University

Membership Commission Chair

Morgan Rizzardi, Butler County Community College

Ronika Money, Penn State Brandywine

Carey Seymore-Haddock, Temple University

Communications Commission Chair

Brian Root, University of Pittsburgh Greensburg

Christina Wood, Harrisburg Area Community College

Four Year Public Member at Large West

Dan Pretz, California University of Pennsylvania

Four Year Private Member at Large West

Amanda Ries, Seton Hill University

Amanda Gunther, Washington and Jefferson College

Two Year College Member at Large West

Shirley McCauley, Butler County Community College

Membership Update (as of March 21, 2011)

Submitted by Dr. Amber Sherman
Indiana University of Pennsylvania



PCPA Current Membership Database: 144
List-serve Subscribers: 134

Institution Type:

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Two-Year CC | 18 |
| Four-Year Public | 75 |
| Four-Year Private | 48 |
| Other | 3 |

Membership Type:

| | |
|-----------|----|
| Emeritus | 4 |
| Associate | 5 |
| Regular | 98 |
| Student | 37 |

Membership At-Large Representation:

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Two-Year East | 10 |
| Two-Year West | 8 |
| Four-Year East Private | 21 |
| Four-Year West Private | 29 |
| Four-Year East Public | 49 |
| Four-Year West Public | 27 |

Expiration Dates:

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| October 2011 | 113 |
| October 2012 | 13 |
| October 2013 | 7 |
| October 2014 | 1 |
| October 2015 | 3 |
| October 2017 | 1 |
| October 2019 | 1 |
| October 2020 | 1 |
| Emeritus | 4 |

Save the Date!

The 2011 PCPA Annual Conference will be held on October 16-18, 2011 at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh at the Monroeville Convention Center. Information about the call for programs and conference registration will be made available soon! Please mark your calendar, invite a colleague, and plan to attend the conference!

Attention Graduate Students:

The Grady Roberts Writing Award Submission Process is open!

PCPA is pleased to announce that the process for the Grady and Mary Roberts Graduate Student Writing Award is once again open. The purpose of the competition and award is to encourage and recognize scholarly writing by graduate students about contemporary issues, topics or practice in Student Affairs. All students who are members of PCPA and enrolled in masters or doctoral programs are invited to participate. All entries must be postmarked no later than June 15, 2011!

Additional information and the application form are available now at www.pcpa.net.

What's Happening Across the State?

Compiled by Bryan Koval, Carnegie Mellon University

Penn State Students Rally at the Capital to Protest Proposed Budget Cuts: Governor Corbett's budget results in activism by students and alumni. For Details: <http://bit.ly/gtoNhf>

Temple University students showcase undergraduate research. Topics include media, genetics, and social studies. For Details: <http://bit.ly/hvvMm9>

Scholarship established at Indiana University of Pennsylvania to honor Pittsburgh Police Officer. The scholarship honors Stephen J. Mayhle, an IUP alumnus who was killed in the line of duty. For Details: <http://bit.ly/iej97Q>

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.

Executive Board Meeting Briefs

Prepared & Submitted by Dr. Charmaine Strong, Seton Hill University

Due to the extreme winter weather conditions and the impending reports of more extreme weather, the Executive Board Meeting was conducted via conference call on 4 February 2011. Following are the highlights:

- ❖ 2010 Conference budget/evaluations were discussed; budget analysis will be conducted by Amber Sherman.
- ❖ **2011 Conference dates are 16-18 October. SAVE THE DATES!!**
- ❖ Election information being prepared by Terry Wigle; call for nominations week of 7 February; online voting end of March/early April.
- ❖ Discussion about terms of office for some officer positions. As a result, determined that Terry Wigle would prepare amendments, as appropriate, and online membership voting would be conducted. Also, review of bylaws to be added to summer retreat agenda.
- ❖ Total assets of \$17,172.03.
- ❖ Amanda Ries reported that a meeting was held during the conference concerning the networking night “west;” networking night “east” in process. **Watch for details!!**
- ❖ Mindy Somerville updated Board on Spring Keystone – **Grant Writing** will be the focus; Mindy is investigating webinar possibility; also a DVD recording as a possibility. Brainstorming of possible presenters and the scheduling. Suggested that MALs email constituents to try to determine best possible timing for keystones. A. Ries will design a google doc survey for MAL use. Kate Adams will discuss with graduate students.
- ❖ Kate Adams reported that ongoing effort for the graduate student liaison is to link graduate students across Pennsylvania so that this population is representative across the Commonwealth. Was suggested that there be two graduate student liaisons – east and west. Kate and Diane Williams are also brainstorming ideas of how to implement a support system at PCPA and ACPA annual conferences to provide motivation and support of graduate students.
- ❖ Jeff Fazio reported that he has been unable to locate a high resolution version of the PCPA logo. As a result, worked on some new designs which were viewed online. After discussion, for the present time, Jeff agreed to redo the current logo in high resolution but will incorporate the text in the keystone. Will work up additional samples for future review.
- ❖ Additional items added to the June Retreat agenda: strategic plan and the equity and inclusion plan.

Full reports of Executive Board minutes and the PCPA Annual Business Meeting minutes are available online at PCPA.net.

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networking community grow.

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PCPA?

E-mail the listserv at

PCPA@LISTSERV.MESSIAH.EDU

God, Gays, and Public Institutions: Preserving Religious Freedom, First Amendment Rights, & the Celebration of Sexual Diversity

Kate Linder, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

The Supreme Court Case:

Nearly one year ago on April 19, 2010, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *Christian Legal Society vs Martinez*, a case which originated six (6) years earlier at the University of California's Hastings College of the Law. The conflict began when the Christian Legal Society was denied the university recognition it sought because the group violated the college's policy prohibiting discrimination on the basis of religion and sexual orientation. Although its meetings were open to all students, the group disallowed voting membership and leadership to students who were not Christians and/or who were sexually active gays and lesbians. To be group leaders and voting members, students were required to sign a statement of faith. The Christian Legal Society sued the University of California's Hastings College of the Law citing violations of its right to free speech and freedom of religion and association. The Supreme Court decided to hear the Christian Legal Society's appeal after lower courts ruled in favor of the Hastings College of the Law.

The Supreme Court Ruling:

On Monday, June 28, 2010, in a 5-to-4 decision, the Supreme Court ruled that public universities can require recognized student organizations to accept the membership of all students who wish to join. In the case of *Christian Legal Society vs Martinez*, the officially recognized religious student organization can be required to allow students of all sexual orientations, including gays and lesbians, and/or students who do not share their beliefs, to be group members. Further, the decision stated that the University of California's Hastings College of the Law's nondiscrimination policy did not unfairly impact religious groups. Presumably, the university's nondiscrimination policy superseded the *Christian Legal Society's* desire to restrict membership to students who are heterosexual and whom share the group's core beliefs. According to the majority viewpoint for the decision, the ruling promoted the availability of educational opportunities to all students and encouraged dialogue among individuals holding diverse viewpoints and beliefs. The dissenting opinion described the decision as one that marginalized religious student groups and hindered freedom of expression.

Implications for Public Colleges and Universities:

Public higher education institutions can require that membership to officially recognized student organizations be open in accordance with an institution's nondiscrimination policy. What are the short-term and long-term implications of requiring a republican student group to accept student members who are democrats (or visa versa)? Try to imagine the meetings of a Wiccan student group if multiple students holding conservative religious beliefs join (imagine the inverse situation).

The Supreme Court's decision in *Christian Legal Society vs Martinez* has set the stage for a potentially challenging dimension of environmental management and passionate dialogue/debate within the context of recognized student organizations. Faculty and staff need to be prepared to provide structure and leadership in promoting productive, healthy, open, civil discussion within recognized student organizations as membership diversifies. For example, there is natural tension between some religious convictions and the celebration of sexual diversity on campus. While advocates for either perspective may have a passionate desire to silence the voice of the other, colleges and universities must be environments that promote awareness, education, and dialogue. Students, faculty, and staff should be encouraged to communicate divergent perspectives more often, not less often. Constituents should have ample opportunity to demonstrate civility in the midst of passionate discourse and to practice listening and developing empathy and understanding. These qualities are lacking in many of the national debates occurring in the political arena and are often absent in anonymous postings on social networking sites. With some practice and the embrace of the free exchange of ideas, perhaps

public universities can model civil, open debate for other areas of our culture while preserving religious freedom, first amendment rights, and the celebration of sexual diversity.

Sources: www.SupremeCourt.gov;

www.Chronicle.com/Supreme-Court-Appears-Split/65169;

Barnes, Robert. *Justices say school can require student groups to accept all who are interested*. (Tues. June 29). 2010 The Washington Post

Newsletter submissions are encouraged and welcome. Submit all inquiries to Bryan Koval, PCPA Communications Commission chairperson, at bkoval@andrew.cmu.edu.

Pennsylvania College Personnel Association Executive Board 2009

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| President Dr. Matthew Shupp | Communications Commission Chair Bryan Koval | NBCC Coordinator Tom Steiner | Member At Large Four-Year Private, West Amanda Ries |
| President Elect Jessica Koval | Constituencies Commission Chair Kate R. Linder | Historian Dr. Dwayne Hilton | Member At Large Four-Year Private, East Lynn Burke |
| Past President Terry Wigle | Membership Commission Chair Dr. Amber Sherman | Professional Development Commission Chair Mindy Somerville | Member At Large Two-Year, West Morgan Rizzardi |
| Recorder Dr. Charmaine R. Strong | Faculty Liaison Dr. Linda Hall | Member At Large: Four-Year Public, West Tedd Cogar | Member At Large Two-Year, East David Watters |
| Treasurer Dr. Amber Sherman | Graduate Student Liaison Kate Adams Diane M. Williams | Member At Large Four-Year Public, East Jeff Fazio | Webmaster Dr. Daniel Kennedy |
| Past Officers Advisory Committee Todd Eicker | | | |

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