



Southern Association for College Student Affairs

"Providing cooperative association and professional development
for professionals engaged in college student affairs work."

March 2011

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Call for Programs
- Annual Conference Opening Keynote Speaker
- Professional Development
- Career Services Tips
- Survey Information
- SACSA Spotlight
- Foundation Highlights

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Annual Conference 2011

Call For Programs: Deadline April 4, 2011

Delivering a Dream: Challenging Ourselves to Connect, Empower, and Sustain

SACSA with NASPA Region III is currently soliciting program proposals for the 2011 Conference, which will be November 5-7 in Atlanta, Georgia. Our theme for 2011, "Delivering a Dream: Challenging Ourselves to Connect, Empower and Sustain," reminds us of the importance of holding each other accountable, supporting one another, and equipping ourselves with the tools and skills necessary to continue our important work as student affairs practitioners and scholars.

Presenters should focus their proposals on at least one of the following program categories: Scholarship, Key Issues in Student Affairs, Best Practices in the Field. Additionally, presenters should align their proposals with at least one of the following professional competency areas for student affairs practitioners, which were recently created and endorsed by NASPA and ACPA. See http://www.naspa.org/programs/prodev/Professional_Compencies.pdf for more specific descriptions.

- Advising and Helping
- Assessment, Evaluation, and Research
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Ethical Professional Practice
- History, Philosophy, and Values
- Human and Organizational Resources
- Law, Policy, and Governance
- Leadership
- Personal Foundations
- Student Learning and Development
- History, Philosophy, and Values
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- Leadership
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- Student Learning and Development

Submission Information

All proposals will be submitted electronically. Submission instructions are available under the "Annual Conference" section of the SACSA website. You will be asked to include the following:

- Program abstract
- Program category
- Learning outcomes
- Relationship to conference theme
- Program format
- Methods for involvement
- Background of presenters
- Connection to professional competencies

PLEASE NOTE

- Presenters are responsible for supplying all audio-visual equipment for their sessions.
- Questions can be directed to Beau Seagraves, Interest Sessions Chair, at beaus@uga.edu.
- All presenters must be registered for the conference.
- Deadline for submitting a program proposal is April 4, 2011.

2011 Conference: Opening Keynote Speaker



A. Paul Pyrz, Jr.

Paul Pyrz serves as the President of LeaderShape, Inc., a not-for-profit organization located in Champaign, Illinois. LeaderShape has been providing ethics-based leadership programs for men and women across the country for the past twenty years. Prior to joining LeaderShape in August of 2000, he spent 11 years working in Student Affairs, primarily in residential life, at Arizona State University, the University of California at Davis, the University of Miami (FL), and the University of Illinois. In between, Paul also worked with Franklin Covey, a personal productivity company known for their time management tools. He received both his bachelors and masters degrees from Arizona State University in Business Administration and Human Resource Development, respectively; and is currently completing his doctorate in Educational Organization and Leadership at the University of Illinois. His mission is to help others live and lead with integrity. Paul is married to Patty and

Professional Development and Career Opportunities

Job Postings

Remember to get your open positions posted on the SACSA website!!

Current postings:

Director for Career Planning at St. Leo University; Resident Director at East Texas Baptist University; Director of Housing and Residence Life at Furman University; Director of Housing and Residence Life at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Vice President, Student Services at American Public University System; Associate Vice President for Student Affairs at University of South Florida; Coordinator of University Housing at Appalachian State University

New Professionals Institute 2011

It's Not Too Late To Apply!

Applications are due April 1, 2011, for NPI 2011 at Emory University, June 6– 10. Tuition was held at last year's rate for this top-of-the-line professional development opportunity for new professionals.

Space is limited so be sure to complete your application today by going to [NPI 2011](#)

Applications are due April 1, 2011.

Mid-Manager's Institute 2011

SACSA and NASPA Region III proudly offer MMI 2011, June 18 -22 at Auburn University. MMI is a unique professional development experience that offers an opportunity for promising mid-level professionals to enhance and develop the skills, relationships, and dispositions that distinguish them in the profession.

For more information and to register: click here [MMI 2011](#)

Applications are due March 31, 2011.

Tips from Career Services

How Are We Preparing our Students to Join the Job Market?

Even when they leave campus to look for a job our students will represent us and what they have learned through our mentorship, participating in our programs and attending our classes. How will they fare? Below are a few things to consider that may not have come up in your day to day conversations.

- 1) Hand shakes. Take some time to practice this with your students. Give them feedback about what works or doesn't with this important method of greeting. More information is available at http://www.sideroad.com/Business_Etiquette/handshake-etiquette.html.
- 2) Saying thank you. Have thank you cards become obsolete due to environmental concerns? Saying thank you never goes out of style, especially in this day and age where it is becoming a lost art. Fewer candidates are thinking to do thank you cards so be sure to stand out and send a well written card after every interview. There are lots of websites with suggestions for wording. You can also find plenty of "green" thank you cards to use to respect the environment.
- 3) Getting comfortable with talking about oneself. How much practice has the student had answering questions about herself/himself? Start practicing before she/he gets off campus. Set up some mock interview time. Give the student feedback; don't take it easy on her or him now. They need to get confident in talking about themselves.
- 4) Adequately researching the places one wants to work. Employers can tell when someone applies on a whim. Encourage students to do their research now for the jobs they really want. Sending out lots and lots of resumes is one strategy but taking the time to really get to know the places they see would be a terrific fit will likely end up in a better interview.

Employers will take notice of those candidates that are well prepared and properly mentored. It is our responsibility to the profession to send out our students with the best possible chance of success. Once they leave campus, it is up to them to use what they learned.

How to Be a Great Mentor without All the Fuss

Did you know that there can be great satisfaction in formally mentoring others? It's a way of "giving back" and can also be a way to learn some new things yourself. <http://www.aspire-cs.com/how-to-be-a-great-mentor-without-all-the-fuss>

Survey Information

In January 2011, the SACSA Executive Council sponsored a survey of all active SACSA members. The Survey was designed to collect demographic data regarding the membership, solicit feedback regarding professional development programming, association benefits, and the member experience.

A full report of the data can be found at
<http://sacsa.org/associations/6953/files/SACSA-Member-Survey.pdf>

SACSA Spotlight

The SACSA Spotlight is a new section of the SACSA-Alert. Each month this section will highlight members and their experiences, as well as their campuses, programs, and initiatives. It is our hope that this new initiative will engage and excite our members.

The Career Services Committee is soliciting general SACSA experiences and Southern Placement Exchange stories. Please email Pam Curtis at pncurt01@louisville.edu for more information.

The SACSA-Alert Committee is soliciting exciting, innovative, or general interest stories from the campuses of our members. If you are interested in being interviewed about something happening on your campus, please email Alison Brown at abrown94@utk.edu with a few sentences as to why your campus should be highlighted in an upcoming SACSA-Alert. A member of the SACSA-Alert committee will be in contact with you upon receipt of your email.

Hope you enjoy our first Spotlight!



The University of Tennessee at Knoxville Celebrates 50 Years of African American Achievement.

The Southern Association for College Student Affairs was founded on the principles of diversity and inclusiveness. In line with that mission is a very important and monumental celebration occurring this year at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

In the spring semester of 2011, the University of Tennessee, Knoxville begins a yearlong celebration honoring the first African American undergraduate students and the rich legacy of African American achievement campus-wide.

The journey towards desegregation began in July 1960 when Theotis Robinson, Jr. applied for admission to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. On January 4, 1961, Robinson, along with two other African American students, Charles Edgar Blair and Willie Mae Gillespie, gained admittance and began classes. The doors of UTK's Graduate School were opened for African Americans eight years earlier with the admission of Gene Gray in 1952.

This landmark celebration will honor all individuals involved in the desegregation of the university. It will also recognize the vast accomplishments of African Americans during the past fifty-plus years, chronicling both triumphs and struggles. As the university pauses to recognize this historic milestone, it also looks forward to the next fifty years of African American achievement.

The celebration began on February 1, in conjunction with the start of Black History Month, with a march beginning at the iconic Torchbearer statue, which is located in the middle of the campus community. The march symbolizes the brave walk students made while integrating the university. The march concluded at the Carolyn P. Brown Memorial University Center with a program featuring Olympian and UT Knoxville Alumna Benita Fitzgerald Mosely.

Other programs and honors for this celebration include a Black Issues Conference titled "*Black in America: Honoring the Past ... Enhancing Our Future.*" The conference offered a forum for research and a discussion of matters affecting the African-American culture. The next formal celebration is on a weekend in May, which is the Black Alumni/Alex Haley Celebrity Golf weekend. The celebration will resume in the Fall Semester with a Grand Gala on September 23.

For additional information regarding the 50th anniversary of African American achievement at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville you can visit <http://achieve.utk.edu>

Material for this article was obtained from <http://achieve.utk.edu>

SACSA Foundation

Joelle Davis Carter, Foundation Chair

The SACSA Foundation provides financial support to members who are engaged in research that has a direct bearing on Higher Education and Student Affairs. This support is given in the form of SACSA Research Grants and the Dissertation of the Year Award. This year three research grants were awarded and one Dissertation of the Year was selected. In this edition of the SACSA-Alert, we are highlighting two of the recipients of the research grants, Beau Seagraves and Stacie Williams. Both of the recipients are fulltime student affairs practitioners at their respective institutions. Beau will be using his grant to support his dissertation study, while Stacie will be using the grant to continue the research she began while completing her dissertation last fall.



From Left to Right : **Dissertation of the Year**: Dr. Matthew Clifford (Wake Forest University); **Research Chair**: Dr. April Heiselt (Mississippi State University); **Research Grants**: Dr. Stacie Williams (University of South Carolina Aiken); Beau Seagraves (University of Georgia); **not pictured** - Dr. Natasha Chapman, Melissa Gruver, Cristina Ramos (all Texas Christian University) and Dr. Minisa Huls (Thomas Nelson Community College)

Beau Seagraves

University of Georgia

Assessment Practices in Student Affairs Divisions at Small Colleges and Universities

I was awarded a SACSA Research Grant at the Fall 2010 Conference to support my dissertation study, "Assessment Practices in Student Affairs Divisions at Small Colleges and Universities". This grant allows me to contribute to a dearth in empirically-based literature surrounding the practice of assessment. The results will be particularly interesting to student affairs administrators at small colleges and universities. However, a wider audience will be interested in how I define and measure the types of assessment being conducted, the elements of a culture of assessment, the motivations of administrators conducting assessment, and individuals' assessment skills and knowledge.

Ultimately, this grant has provided the resources to allow me to access consultant and technological services through the Department of Student Affairs Assessment at the University of Georgia. I have developed an online questionnaire that I plan to distribute electronically to SACSA and NASPA Region III members who work at small colleges and universities. Having this electronic format to send and receive information provides a greater level of confidentiality to participants, ensures the responses they enter are done so accurately, and allows me to more quickly and effectively analyze the data. Engaging in high quality research is imperative within the broad field of student affairs, and this grant has provided the opportunity for me to enhance the quality of research around assessment practice.

Dr. Stacie Williams

University of South Carolina Aiken

First Generation College Messages Transmitted During the College Transition Process

As first-generation college parents experience their child's transition to become a college student, they are continually forming meanings and sending messages about this experience. Previous research has largely credited first-generation college parents with sending negative messages to their children about the pursuit of a college education and providing limited supportive involvement during this time. In coming to these conclusions, much of the research in this area has included limited input from first-generation college parents. In an effort to fill this research gap, my research explores the first-hand narratives of college transition from both first-generation college parents and their children. Specifically, this study examines how the process of college planning, enrollment, and attendance are perceived by first-generation college parents and then communicated to their college students.

I am honored to be the recipient of a SACSA Research Grant which will allow me to increase the number of families and states represented in my data. This expansion of the data pool increases the potential for generalizability of the research findings. Since a large number of first-generation college students state that their parents were a major influence in their decision to attend college, it is imperative that higher education institutions understand how this influential parent population perceives the college transition experience. With greater understanding of the perceptions of first-generation college parents, they can become better allies in fostering their children's success.

As a first generation college student, the messages received from my parents were vital to my educational pursuits and make this research not only relevant to me as a researcher and practitioner, but as a representative of first-generation college students and their parents.

SACSA Foundation, continued

Tips for 2011: Invest in Yourself and SACSA!

The SACSA Foundation encourages you to INVEST in yourself and the Foundation this year.

Please print this and post these tips in a place where you can review and consider throughout the year!

1. Take more time to BREATHE! Although most student affairs professionals think there are more than 24 hours in day - it is not true. Work hard; then go home and relax.
2. Looking for a new professional challenge? Consider preparing and presenting a topic or best practice during the 2011 SACSA Annual Conference.
3. Have you been thinking about a SACSA Friend or Mentor? Allocate time to find their email address and send a message OR go onto Facebook and search for their name and post a message.
4. Do you have any spare change? \$5?, \$10? Maybe \$25? Go to www.sacsa.org and click on the SACSA Foundation to make an online gift.
5. No programs, retreats or student meetings this weekend? Great! Make some tea or coffee and finish the book you have been trying to complete for over a year.
6. Stretch, Meditate, Stretch and Meditate Again! It helps!
7. Use some of the money you have been saving to pamper yourself or do something nice for someone you care about.
8. Tell your colleague or supervisor "Good job" or "I appreciate what you do for our unit".
9. Wait! What are you planning to do with that spare change leftover from your Starbuck purchase? Consider placing it and additional change in a cup or can marked "SACSA Foundation" and donate it during the 2011 Annual Conference.
10. Love Yourself! No one can do it better than you!

The SACSA Foundation-Wishing you a great spring semester!

Committee Chairs and SACSA-Iert Contributors

Tanisha Jenkins , Awards & Recognition
Pam Curtis , Career Services
Ana Didonato , Conference Chair
Lakiesa Cantey Rawlinson , Conference Local Arrangements
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Dr. Andrew Johnston , Mid-Managers Institute
Marc Cordon , Multicultural Awareness
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Joy Smith , NASPA-III Vice President
Dr. Dawn Watkins , New Professionals Institute
Jim Conneely , Nominations
Lamar Bryant , Parliamentarian/By-Laws
Rusty Guill , Partners/Sponsors/Exhibitors
Dr. Monica Burke , Research
Adrian DeLoach , Resolutions
Khorey Baker , SACSA's 'Newest' Professionals
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