

MEN'S BRIEFS



STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MEN

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A FEW WORDS FROM THE NEW CHAIR

I'm honored to have been elected chair for the Standing Committee for Men (SCM). I want to thank past chair, Jason Laker, for his commitment to men's issues, inclusive leadership, thoughtful vision, and dedicated service. Since June, I've been working to maintain the quality stewardship that Jason has

respectively. We need to begin to more effectively support men in their exploration of who they are so that the choice is self, not simply socially, constructed.

But haven't we already focused too much attention on men? At first glance, this assumption seems obvious and well-founded. However, as Meth and Pasick (1990) point out, "although psychological writing has been androcentric, it has also been gender blind (and) it has assumed a male perspective but has not really explored what it means to be a man any more than what it means to be a woman" (vii). If this is true, we need to first go deeper than superficial assumptions and begin to more closely examine the development of men through the lenses of gender and sex. This is another one of the reasons why SCM is needed. That is, we need a SCM to support research into men on campus, stimulate discussions about working with men, disseminate knowledge about how to more effectively promote men's development, and provide space for the support for

student affairs professionals working with college men.

In order to accomplish these and other goals, we will need an invested and talented directorate. Thank you to David Braverman, Jason Laker, Stephen Bauer, Mike Stong, Randy Ludeman, Dan Calhoun, Patrick Dockins, Mitch Nasser and Rickey Hall who are already serving on the SCM directorate. I also want to invite men and women interested in addressing the needs of ACPA members and collegiate men to consider a leadership position with SCM. If you want to be involved at the directorate level please attend our business meeting on 3/29/03 in the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis - Lake Nokomis from 2:00 PM - 05:00 PM Or you can submit a nomination to me at (309) 298-1183 or TL-Davis1@wiu.edu.

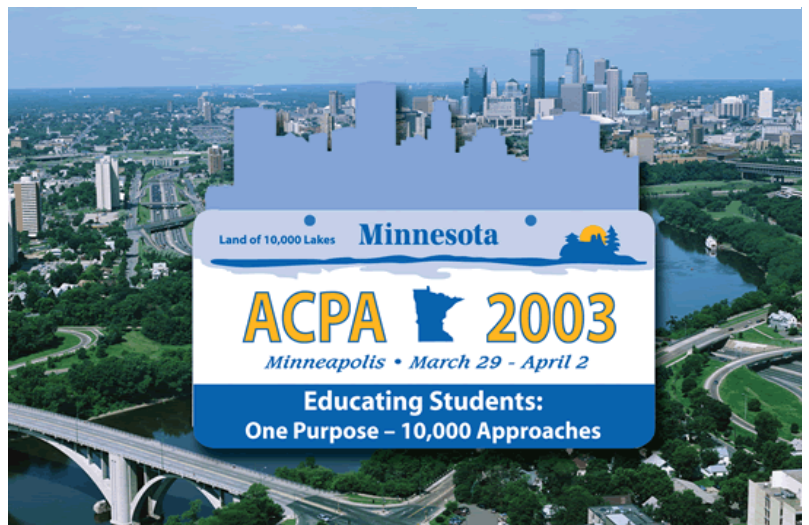
While we currently enjoy a multicultural membership, I would like to extend an inclusive invitation to all ACPA members to help us hear the voices and meet the needs of as many men as possible.

provided over the last two years.

At this critical point in the committee's development, I hope to continue and deepen past commitments as well as offer some new initiatives. For example, I believe we should maintain our ally development efforts by working collaboratively with other standing committees and commissions, co-sponsoring programs, holding ally meetings, and establishing meaningful dialogue about how men can partner with others in ACPA to carry out the work of the association. An example of this is the Ally Development meeting we have schedule for 8:00 Tuesday March 31 in the Hyatt Lake Minnetonka room with the Standing Committee for Women. I hope you'll join us as we explore common goals.

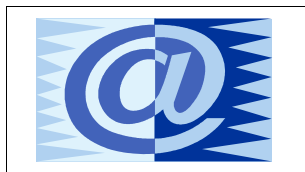
Some of our new accomplishments include a new directorate structure, a new web page thanks to Mike Strong and a new listserv that you can read about in this issue. In addition, I intend to initiate a program to share information with ACPA members about the SCM. I believe there is some association-wide curiosity about what exactly the committee stands for, what issues are discussed, and even why there is a need for such a committee.

Regarding this last topic; why is there a SCM, I think it's important to offer an answer. Just as women have been restricted by narrow boundaries of socialized gender roles, men have also been sold gender role straitjackets. I believe we have made strides toward providing alternative archetypes for women (although we still have more work to do). I think we've been less effective in breaking the socially constructed and imposed mold for men. I'm reminded of a magazine advertisement I recently saw involving the JC Penney brand Arizona. It pictured a young woman in underwear and the ad copy read "Camisole top. Boyish brief." It made me smile as I thought that we are much less likely to see a similar ad that reads "Tank top. Girlish panties" next to a picture of a young man. Think, moreover, about the different impact that the terms "tomboy" and "sissy" have on young girls or boys,



SCM ANNOUNCES NEW WEBSITE & LIST SERVE!!

The Standing Committee for Men is excited to unveil a new look for our website. On Friday, February 21, 2003 our site was published and now can be found by browsing the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) website and by looking at the following URL: <http://www.acpa.nche.edu/comms/scm/index.html> We encourage you to take a few moments and explore our site and learn more about the Standing Committee for Men. The site has seen many changes



in the past year. We have developed a fresh clean look hoping to

draw new voices into our discussion.

Beyond a fresh new face, we have also collected some resources to help others acclimate to our vision and our work. These resources include: our current and past newsletters, links to other men's issues sites, reports and minutes from our recent meetings, and a list of

upcoming events. We are particularly excited about the wealth of programs and projects for the upcoming ACPA Convention in Minneapolis later this year. We hope this information will allow you to learn more about our history, activities and values.

In addition to a resource center, we also have designed tools to aid us in tending to our business. We are excited to introduce our new email discussion group. We can now use the discussion group to easily contact all members of our committee. If you would like to join our discussion group simply follow the instructions provided at the following URL: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sc4m/join> This email tool helps us to plan meetings and activities, learn more about men's issues, and share exciting news with each other. We have also included a chat room in our website. This chat application will allow us to schedule meetings and then share our ideas in a real time discussion. We trust these tools will help us to grow closer together despite the physical distance

that separates the members of our committee.

In the midst of all the business, we have set aside some space to celebrate and affirm our efforts as a community. We have created a picture gallery and photography slide show to share with you images from our meetings together. We are looking forward to updating this feature with some new images after the convention in Minneapolis. We will also celebrate online with the recipients of the Standing Committee for Men annual awards. Like our picture gallery, this feature will be updated after the convention when this year's award recipients are scheduled to be announced. And finally, one of the least flashy but most important pages on our website is our directorate information. We encourage you to reach out and contact the many members of our committee who's work enriches our lives and provides purpose for our website.

Michael Strong—Website Coordinator

Bad Dogs: Rethinking Our Engagement of Male Students

We know that while most men do not "do bad things," the majority of disruptive, abusive, hate-motivated, and/or violent behaviors on campus are committed by male students. Student Development and social science literature connects such behaviors to issues of psychosocial development. In other words, students with strong self-concepts tend not to be of harm to self or others. We also know that Student Affairs as a field stakes claim to knowledge and efficacy in promoting students' psychosocial development. If both are true, we must ask: "what are we doing with male students?" If we believe that habits and identities are formed when students arrive, with no hope of change, then we are an irrelevant and superfluous field... But we don't believe that, so then how is it that no critique of our approach with male students has ascended to our institutional (or ACPA's) discourse?

As Student Affairs has developed as a field, scholars and practitioners have identified

deficiencies in classical theory pertaining to students who are women, LGBTQ, people of color, have disabilities, etc. Further, the school of thought is that student development theory is primarily based on research subjects who are middle/upper-class Caucasian men and thus is applicable to this population primarily. I agree with half of that argument. I agree that the classical theory poses significant limitations for use with diverse groups, and so the newer research and theoretical frameworks have rightly made their way into our field. But, we forgot something that I believe is very important. The early research did not study "men." Rather, it studied "students" who were men—there was no gender lense and thus the resulting theory cannot capture the gendered nature of identity development, for men or for women. While the theories are gendered male per se (due to the subjects studied), they are resonant with hegemonic (socially constructed and imposed) masculinity rather than what we might describe as human masculine identity.

The Student Affairs field has established values and best practices based

on the literature, and inculcated these into graduate students and new professionals (as in any field). We must revisit these underlying values and norms and question the resultant engagement with male students. There is now a dis-joint that adversely affects our effectiveness with male students. This dis-joint causes alienation of male students, who then go seeking affirmation from the very peer groups that concern us. To the extent that we alienate men and chase them to this affirmation, we become complicit in the behaviors that offend us.

In the Introduction to *Men's Lives*, Michael Kimmel describes masculinity in terms of a "social constructionist" perspective:

"...the important fact of men's lives is not that they are biological males, but that they become men. Our sex may be male, but our identity as men is developed through a complex process of interaction with the culture in which we both learn the gender scripts appropriate to our culture and attempt to modify those scripts to make them more palatable. (p. xx)"

Male students arrive at college having been socialized according to the hegemonic

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HARRY CANON AWARD

The Harry Canon Outstanding Professional award was established to recognize an individual who has, over the course of their career, provided significant contributions to scholarship and/or programs related to college men's development. This year's award winner is Sam Cochran, Ph.D., current President of the Society for the Psychological Study of Men and Masculinity of the American Psychological Association and incoming editor of the journal *Psychology of Men and Masculinity*. According to Dr. Fredric E. Rabinowitz, Professor of Psychology at the University of Redlands, "Sam would be a wonderful choice as scholar in residence for the Standing Committee for Men of ACPA". Sam is the Director of the Counseling Services at the University of Iowa, a member of ACPA, and one of the early members of the Standing



Committee for Men in the early 1980's. He has written and presented extensively about men, psychotherapy, and depression. He has co-written *Man Alive: A Primer of Men's Issues* Brooks/Cole (1994); *Men and Depression: Clinical and Empirical Perspectives* Academic Press (2000) and *Deepening Psychotherapy with Men* American Psychological Association (2002). Dr. Rabinowitz adds that Sam "has a good heart and dedication to the redefinition of what it means to be a healthy male". Congratulations Sam!

OUTSTANDING PROGRAM AWARD

This year's Standing Committee for Men Outstanding Men's Program Award goes to Dr. Gar Kellom and Father Robert Pierson, OSB of Saint John's University. This award is given to a program or intervention at an institution of higher education that has had a positive impact on men's development. Since 1995, Saint John's University has been pioneering men's spirituality groups with participation of approximately 200 students and 20 faculty members. Few colleges or universities are offering programming aimed at fostering the spiritual development of students.

Programs aimed at addressing men's issues in general, and men's spirituality in particular are becoming increasingly important. Recent books in the field such as *Transforming Campus Life, Reflections on Spirituality and Religious Pluralism*, edited by Vachel M. Miller and

Merle M. Ryan, Peter Lang (2000) or *The Implications of Student Spirituality for Student Affairs Practice*, edited by Margaret A. Jablonski, & New Directions Series (Fall, 2000) are examples of resurgent interest in spiritual development as a part of student development. Dr. Kellom has been a contributing author for both of these books.

The program model was developed using theories from the fields of spirituality and men's studies. Assessment of student learning has been conducted for the past three years by Drs. Merle Longwood and Mark Muesse, authors of *Redeeming Men: Religion and Masculinities* (1996). Assessment of student learning has been funded by the Lilly Foundation with a focus on vocational/career development.

Key findings from the men's groups indicate that the experience influences participants' self-awareness as

men. The program also appears to help men better understand relationships, especially the relationship between father and son. The groups have also helped shape each participant's sense of spirituality and connectedness. Career/vocational development has been affected as has the sense of individual mission, purpose in life and relations to family, church and community. Students report that this is the best experience they had in college and the members of the group become the closest group of friends they have developed in four years.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR'S: MINNESOTA MEETINGS

Program Title: **Standing Committee for Men Business Meeting**

Building/Room: Hyatt Regency Minneapolis - Lake Nokomis
Date/Time: 3/29/03 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Program ID: 766



Program Title: **Standing Committee for Men Ally Development Breakfast Meeting with SCLGBTA**

Building/Room: Hyatt Regency Minneapolis - Lake Nokomis
Date/Time: 3/31/03 7:30 AM - 8:45 AM
Program ID: 768

Program ID: 770

Program Title: **SCM Ally Development Breakfast Meeting with SCW**

Building/Room: Hyatt Regency Minneapolis - Lake Minnetonka
Date/Time: 4/1/03 07:30 AM - 08:45 AM
Program ID: 769

Program Title: **Standing Committee for Men Open Meeting**

Building/Room: Hyatt Regency Minneapolis - Nicollet A3
Date/Time: 3/30/03 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Program ID: 767

Program Title: **SCM: Scholar in Residence Round Table**

Building/Room: Hyatt Regency Minneapolis - Nicollet D2
Date/Time: 3/31/03 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Program Title: **Standing Committee for Men Open Meeting/Elections**

Building/Room: Hilton Minneapolis - Directors Row 1
Date/Time: 4/1/03 03:00 PM - 04:00 PM
Program ID: 772



About the Standing Committee for Men

The Standing Committee for Men is a diverse group of men and women dedicated to growth and development. We serve members of the American College Student Personnel Association as one of six ACPA Standing Committees. Our mission statement is below. We welcome the opportunity to affirm many voices including yours and would like to invite you to join our committee and list serve.

Mission

The broad aim of the Standing Committee for Men is to promote men's development. To accomplish this mission we:

- seek to promote awareness of men's issues among both men and women.
- supportively challenge men on campus to develop their full potential in spite of socially constructed gender role limitations.
- encourage and support the creation and dissemination of knowledge about men's development.
- actively welcome men and allies who are newer to male role exploration.
- seek a balance between members' relationship needs for support and personal exploration and our professional responsibility to educate, organize and participate in the work of ACPA.

Bad Dogs *(Continued from page 2)*

standard of masculinity. This standard promotes aggressive, hyper-masculine behaviors-it rewards those who exhibit it and punishes those who do not.

If, for example, a male student calls another male a "fag," (or a host of other "ism" words we know) he is likely to hear from a Student Affairs practitioner "I would appreciate it if you wouldn't use that word," or "that is homophobic." These responses are what I call the "Bad Dog Approach." He learns nothing other than "don't say that in front of him/her." This does not serve the student, and it does not serve the object of the word-meaning that those who are marginalized and otherwise harmed by such language would benefit far more from attitudinal change and developmental growth than from getting a student to comply in a situational manner.

Now, the hard part is, what is our alternative? First, I should say that we need to discuss and deliberate that question. My biggest frustrations in most positions I've held came because the dominant voices in our field do not respond well to critique. Further, organizations tend to operate in legalistic, top-down ways that force people to get on board or leave the field. Neither of these are unique to Student Affairs, but they nonetheless pervade our field and I believe there are many who quietly feel like we are missing something. Let me say overtly-we are missing something when it comes to men. Let me be more frank-When we do not developmentally and engage the men who cause harm, we are relegated to helping the other people who were harmed to cope with the bad

behavior (e.g. Rape-Aggression Defense, GLBT Support Groups, Hate-Free Zones and Centers). Why are all of these things needed? They are needed to help people who are hurt by homophobia, sexism, racism, etc., mostly perpetrated by a small number of male students who we don't know, and who do not trust us enough to open up to us. In our deliberation, we need to grapple with the fact that in order to change our approach, we must be willing to give men (and especially the men who do harmful things to self and others) safe space to discuss their thoughts and beliefs. Many of these thoughts and beliefs may be objectionable, and we must hear them with an open heart and mind. We must give feedback gently, with questions like, "wow-that's a really strong view-where did that come from?" rather than "why are you so racist?"

Let me be clear about a couple of points that may be on your mind as you read this. First, I do not condone mean behavior of any kind and those who perpetrate them should be accountable for them. Second, I understand male privilege and know that men have access to that privilege-but I also know that most men do not feel powerful (see Allan Johnson's *The Gender Knot* for more on that topic). The discourse that men are operating in a male-centered society is frankly irrelevant to an 18/19 year-old guy who doesn't even know who he is yet, no less how to "access his male privilege." He will not "get it" unless someone stops "Bad-Dogging" him and really listens to him. I recently conducted an exercise in a course I teach, in which I instructed people to talk about themselves to a partner, and for the partner to listen deeply. I then asked, "how did it feel to be listened to?" The answers from men were powerful-"I've never felt listened to before, it was wonderful." We must come to terms with our poor handling of male identity development, and discuss alternatives without allowing our traditional models to cloud a search for a workable alternative that is good for everyone, including young men.

Knowing this is a provocative article, I welcome your thoughtful feedback at laker@email.arizona.edu.
—Jason Laker (Past Chair SCM)

SCM SPONSORED PROGRAMS IN MINNEAPOLIS

As the SCfM Convention Program Coordinator, it is my pleasure to announce this years listing of SCfM sponsored programs. Narrowing down the top five programs was difficult but we feel that this years sponsored programs will not only facilitate thought provoking discussion around men and men's issues, but also represent the diverse tapestry of issues facing men and male college students. Contact me at—Stephen_A_Bauer@yahoo.com.

Arrested Emotional Development: Working with Men and Emotions

Randall B. Ludeman - Bemidji State University
Monday, March 31, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM - Minneapolis Convention Center - 102 D

At the Gateway: The African American Male Experience in College

Tyrone Bledsoe - The University of Toledo
Kevin D. Rome - Indian University-Purdue University, Indianapolis
Michael Cuyjet - The University of Louisville
Monday, March 31, 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM - Minneapolis Convention Center - 102 C

"Bad Dog:" Rethinking Our Engagement with Male Students

Jason A Laker - Saint John's University, Tracy Davis - Western Illinois University, Matt Helm - University of Arizona
Monday, March 31, 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM - Minneapolis Convention Center - 205 B

Internet Groups: One Approach to Men's Affiliation & Intimacy Needs

Scott H Reikofski - University of Pennsylvania
Tuesday, April 1, 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM - Minneapolis Convention Center - 102 B

The Spirit of Man: Voices from Men's Spiritual Development Groups

Gar E Kellom - St. John's Univ., Fr. Bob Pierson, OSB - St. John's University
Wednesday, April 2, 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM - Minneapolis Convention Center - 208 B

To update your address on your ACPA membership, visit:
<https://acpant.acpa.nche.edu/member.nsf/address+change+form>