



# The MUSE

ACPA: College Student Educators International  
Standing Committee for Women

## Letter from the SCW Chair

July 2005

Hello Wonderful Women of SCW,

Greetings from hot and humid Minnesota! I hope that your summers are going well, although like many of you, my summer seems to be dwindling down as we prepare for the return of our students to campus. My involvement with ACPA and SCW proves to be one of the highlights of my work and continually reminds me how fortunate I am to serve in this position. My hope is to provide you with a report on some of the highlights since our time together in Nashville and emphasize some of the upcoming events until we see each other again in Indianapolis this March.

I first would like to welcome our newly elected directorate members: Cynthia Chapel, Melissa McDonald, Natalie Moses and Sandra Tilford. Congratulations and welcome! SCW directorate terms are for three years and each year, four new members are elected as four members rotate off and have the opportunity to branch into other association involvements. This year, SCW plans to launch our first online election. Later this fall, we will open the nominations and elections process and will slate candidates for the SCW elections. Then early in the spring, we will hold an online election to choose four new members of the directorate who will begin their terms at the national convention. Details will be forthcoming on our website and in future communications.

This May, I had the pleasure of attending the Minnesota CPA board meeting as a guest. I am proud to be a part of such a committed group of people. I thank them for their invitation and their hospitality during my visit.

April 15-17, the ACPA Summer Leadership met in Indianapolis. We had the ability to visit our convention site and host city and let me tell you, it proves to be an exciting time! Indianapolis has grown tremendously and we will not be lacking in food or entertainment during our visit. I had the opportunity to meet with other Standing Committee Chairs as well as many of the State Presidents within our association. I hope that our collaborations will be many for this convention! Please visit the ACPA website to submit a program proposal. Additionally, the Governance Structure Review Task Force is moving along with their collection of comments and observations about the governance structure of the association and our effectiveness. Again, keep checking the website for the opportunity to post your comments and feedback in the process.

Finally, this year is my last year in my term as chair of SCW. It is hard to believe how quickly it goes by, but this is an amazing experience and I would recommend it highly. If you are interested in running for the SCW Chair, please feel free to contact me at 507-389-6090 or [myrna.hernandez@mnsu.edu](mailto:myrna.hernandez@mnsu.edu) and I would be thrilled to speak with you about this wonderful opportunity.

Sincerely,

Myrna Hernandez  
SCW Chair, 2004-2006

**Summer Issue**  
**Convention Programs**  
**New Directorate**  
**SCW activities**

## SCW Sponsored Convention Programs 2006: Making a Difference in the Lives of our Students

Each year, ACPA Standing Committees and Commissions have a unique opportunity to shape Convention programming by sponsoring a limited number of sessions. Programs selected by SCW for sponsorship address issues that are central to women in higher education and are consistent with the Annual Convention theme.

Convention 2006 is focused on Making a Difference in the Lives of our Students with five highlighted programming areas:

- **Assessment & Accountability Track** – *How do we know what works?*
- **Competency Track** – *What do we know, or need to know?*
- **Innovation Track** – *How do we sustain our efforts?*
- **Wholeness Track** – *How do we rejuvenate?*
- **Integrity Track** – *How do we integrate ethical behavior?*

We hope that you consider sharing your challenges, successes, and best practices for working with students at this year's Convention. Programs selected for sponsorship or co-sponsorship will be featured in SCW Convention programming material. We will also acknowledge your contribution with a certificate of appreciation.

For more information about Convention 2006 and program proposal guidelines, please refer to <http://www.myacpa.org/conv06/convention.cfm>. Proposals can be submitted online at <http://cdms.hbp.com/> and must be completed by **Monday, September 12, 2005 at 11:59 pm EST**. In order to be considered for sponsorship, please make sure to click on **Sponsored program** or **Co-sponsored program** (if your work is relevant to multiple Standing Committees/Commissions) under "Type of Program."

If you have questions regarding the general program submission process or SCW sponsored programs, please contact Rosie Perez at [perez@american.edu](mailto:perez@american.edu).



SCW Awards Chair Linda Contreras-Bullock with Wise Woman award recipient Vasti Torres

## SCW Award Recipients

Please join us in congratulating our Award recipients for 2005! We were thrilled to honor four outstanding women in Nashville this year. Be looking for SCW awards information in the November MUSE!

Congratulations again to:  
Vasti Torres Indiana University, Wise Woman Award;

Deborah Casey, Florida Atlantic University, Outstanding Service Toward Development of Women

Gayle Hartleroad, Ball State University, Research and Scholarship Award

Brigette Marty, College of St. Catherine, Outstanding Emerging Professional Woman



SCW Chair Myrna Hernandez with Outstanding Emerging Professional Woman recipient Brigette Marty

## Letter from the 2005 EmpowHer Fellow, Brooke Smith

“Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born.” -Anais Nin

### **Greetings from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania!**

Let's start off by recapping a typical day in Nashville, Tennessee for the ACPA conference: SCW, orientations, meetings, interviews, e-mails, workshops, seminars, catching up with old friends, keynote speakers...the list could go on. To think that I was in Nashville so recently living the whirlwind of an experience it seems like now, is incredible. The ACPA conference in Nashville was by far the most fascinating conference I have ever attended. And even though reflecting back it seemed like I never took a break from the hustles of the conference, I did, and it was with some fabulous women.

Now, let's go back to November when Nicolette nominated me for the EmpowHer Fellowship position. I have to admit I had my insecurities; how would *I* get selected from such a large group of amazing women? Would I measure up if I were selected? Would I meet the SCW expectations of the EmpowHer position? However, I knew from the first moment I talked to Rosie for our pre-conference mentoring session to when I was greeted in Nashville with open arms and welcoming smiles from each of the SCW directorate members, those initial doubts would be replaced with optimism and excitement. I immediately began focusing on the incredible experiences this next year will bring. This is when I truly realized that I had been given a very special opportunity and a chance to begin a journey I would never forget.

The first night of conference proved no different. Circling the table for introductions, the directorate members shared personal and intimate stories that were present in their lives; I immediately felt a connection, a relationship forming. In fact, that same relationship that began forming that first night and continued as the conference progressed, was the same experience that made this conference so meaningful and powerful, that sense of association, connection, and relationship-building. Getting to know each of the women was an incredible experience. Each of the women were unique; different backgrounds, different stages of their lives, and at different areas of the country, yet so collectively and closely bonded through one passionate goal: empowering women.

I just want to thank SCW for giving me this opportunity to come into such an intimate circle of not only colleagues, but sisters. I admire and appreciate that in each of you. I look forward to this next year; getting to know each of you better, contributing to the SCW, and most importantly, experiencing this journey I'll never forget...

Brooke Smith, 2005-2006 EmpowHer Fellow

P.S. Thank you Nicolette for believing in me!

## Incoming SCW Directorate Members: Class of 2005-2008

Melissa McDonald, James Madison University

In 1995 I came to Harrisonburg, VA from Scotch Plains, New Jersey to attend James Madison University. Over the last ten years I have earned both a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Dance and a M.Ed. in College Student Personnel Administration from James Madison.

Professionally speaking, I have been working in the Office of Residence Life at James Madison for the last 6 years, most recently as an Assistant Director. I also teach a Career Development and Life Planning course and have been doing research and presentations in the areas of women and mentoring in higher education and intergenerational working relationships for the last three years. I am highly involved in our state student affairs organizations, serving on various committees, and most recently, serving as co-chair of our state conference. In my free time I enjoy reading, working out, playing my guitar, and traveling.

Sandra K. Tilford, The University of the Art, Philadelphia, PA

I am a Delaware native with a Bachelor of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies in Human Resources from the University of Delaware (Newark, DE). After college, I worked in Residential Life at the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA) and later at Cabrini College (Radnor, PA). I currently serve as the Director of Student Activities at The University of the Arts, which is an institution rich in culture and creativity.

Professionally, I strive to promote an enriching experience for my student leaders, especially resident assistants, orientation leaders, and student government representatives. I will earn my Master of Liberal Arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania in May 2005. My academic research focuses on access to higher education for minorities studying the arts.

Cynthia J. Chapel, University of Miami (FL)

Hello, I am a Hurricane through and through. I received my Bachelor in Business Administration in 1997 from the University of Miami and pursued a Masters in Public Administration as well. I currently work in the Department of Student Activities and Leadership Programs. I advise our late night and weekend programming board, Canes Night Live, the Committee on Student Organizations, and the Elections Commission. I also work directly with the Center for Student Leadership. In addition to attending all Hurricane Football and Basketball games I enjoy reading, traveling, and volunteering in the community. I am a Junior Girl Scout Leader and really enjoy working with the young ladies. I am a new professional and have previously been involved with the ACPA Commission for Student Involvement. I am very excited to begin my term with the SCW directorate and look forward to meeting everyone!

Natalie Moses, Florida International University

Hello SCW! I am currently completing my 1<sup>st</sup> year as a Graduate student in Student Affairs Administration at Florida International University (FIU) in sunny Miami Florida. At FIU I further my professional development through my graduate assistantship in Housing and Residence Life as an Assistant Residence Life Coordinator for a primarily first year student hall. When I am not taking classes or interacting with students I enjoy socializing with friends, reading and keeping up with all the newest movies.

Prior to arriving at FIU, I was a student at Mississippi University for Women. There I became over-involved and enthralled with student affairs and the possibility of a life of working with students. A little more about my background, I was born and raised on an island in the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago.

I believe that one of the greatest things we can share with each other is the story that describes that paths we have chosen, the choices we have made and the challenges we have faced to get us to where we are today, in doing so we can never plan who will be inspired or aligned with what we have each experienced.

## State and International Liaison Program (SAIL) Update: Spring/Summer 2005

The Convention in Nashville was a great place to connect with our current state liaisons as well as recruit new liaisons to represent new states. Because many of us stay connected throughout the year only via email, the annual Convention served as a wonderful opportunity to meet each other face to face whether it was at Carnival, during our annual social or the Annual Business Meeting. During our SAIL meeting we discussed ways to better develop networks in our states and strategize ideas to connect women who may not be involved directly with SCW or ACPA. If you are interested in getting involved with a network of student affairs women in your state, please go to the SCW website <http://www.myacpa.org/sc/SCW/programsindex.html>, under Programs to view the SAIL roster and find your state liaison. It's a great way to get connected with SCW and get involved in what women in your state are doing to support each other. If you are interested in becoming a State Liaison, please contact Heather Kind-Keppel at [kindkeppelh@missouri.edu](mailto:kindkeppelh@missouri.edu).

We welcome our new SAILS:

- FLORIDA, Amber Garrison (formally the Michigan SAIL)
- INDIANA, Dianne McGee, Indiana University
- SOUTH CAROLINA, Darlene Mahaffey, Clemson University

We thank our outgoing SAILS:

- MICHIGAN, Amber Garrison, University of Michigan (Amber will be continuing as a SAIL in Florida)
- WISCONSIN, Barbara E. Kautz, University of Wisconsin-Madison

We are off to a great start!

Heather Kind-Keppel  
SAIL Coordinator

My heart's in the  
right place. I know,  
'cuz I hid it there.

~ Carrie Fisher

## I Am My Sisters Keeper

### SCW Sister Circle~ ACPA Convention 2005

Fifty women- diverse in everyway from ethnicity to campus size and focus area joined together to dialogue with each other about the challenges, successes and initiatives that give them hope as women of color in higher education.

We dialogued about the lack of support we find at some institutions and lack of mentorship that seems to exist in the profession and through ACPA for women of color.

We also discussed how to find other ways to connect women in our field. Recruitment and Retention of Women of Color emerged as a key concern in addition to exploring how women of color “get and work through” the many issues. We spent some time talking about ACPA climate issues and how many people seemed to be on their own mission. We hope for more women and professionals of color to smile and greet each other- especially for first timers.

Some of the following questions emerged:

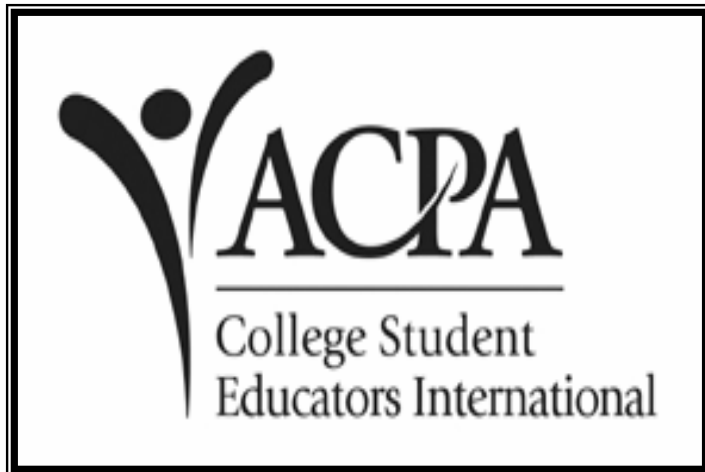
- Is there a way for ACPA to include others across all backgrounds and elements of diversity in the opening session activities and other main plenary sessions?
- How do we and ACPA address the specific needs women of color have across various dimensions of diversity?

As we closed the session we shared ideas and words of wisdom with each other that could give us hope as we returned to our campuses. These include:

- Love the work you do!
  - Consider organizing a regional conference or event for women of color.
  - Do your job well and don't bring other's down!
  - Draw on your spiritual base and others for support.
  - Create a “women of color” award and reception on your campus.
  - Invite women of color out to lunch, dinner or for a movie night.
  - Continue to assess your campus climate and culture.
  - Align yourself with allies from different backgrounds to expand your support network.
  - Focus on the positives and
- Last but not least...remember where you came from and help someone along the way.

We enjoyed connecting with each of you and look forward to keeping the dialogue going.

E-mail Mariama Boney at [boney@aaupw.org](mailto:boney@aaupw.org) with additional thoughts about ways SCW can create venues to share your challenges, successes and hopes as women of color.



## **SCW Fundraiser:**

**We are still selling our beautiful blue Nalgene 20oz. SCW waterbottles! We'll have some at convention in Indianapolis, but if you just can't wait to get your hands on one- please send a check for \$12 made out to ACPA-SCW to:**

**Jodie Castanza  
300 Clark Hall  
Champaign, IL 61802**

**Include your name and mailing address and we'll send one your way shortly!**

**Women should be tough, tender, laugh as much as possible, and live long lives. The struggle for equality continues unabated, and the woman warrior who is armed with wit and courage will be among the first to celebrate victory.**

***Maya Angelou***

**SCW Directorate Board  
2005-2006**

**Mariama Boney-Padilla**  
AAUW

**Cynthia J. Chapel**  
University of Miami (FL)

**Linda Contreras-Bullock**  
University of Houston– Clear Lake

**Jennifer Domagal**  
Penn State University

**Myrna Hernandez**  
Minnesota State University-Mankato

**Kathleen Hothem**  
The lovely state of California

**Heather Kind-Keppel**  
University of Missouri-Columbia

**Melissa McDonald**  
James Madison University

**Natalie Moses**  
Florida International University

**Rosie Perez**  
American University

**Janelle Perron Jennings**  
University of Virginia

**Jane Rosser**  
Bowling Green State University

**Sandra Tilford**  
The University of the Art  
Philadelphia, PA

***EmpowHer Fellow:***  
**Brooke Smith**



The SCW is governed by a Directorate Board of twelve which is currently elected by those attending the annual business meeting. Each member serves a three year term. Nominations are solicited prior to the business meeting at the Spring Conference, via the MUSE and ACPA Developments. Self and/or floor nominations are also welcome. (The SCW elections process will be changed for the upcoming 2006-09 class)

**SCW Vision:**

The Standing Committee for Women exists as a centralized resource and advocate for the needs and concerns of women in the American College Personnel Association and the field of higher education in general. SCW serves to address issues of gender inequity and discrimination in higher education for students, staff, and the profession as a whole.

**SCW Mission:**

Women often have different needs, aspirations, and life priorities than men, particularly while pursuing a career. Women frequently have less access to employment opportunities and leadership positions in higher education. For more than twenty years, the SCW has served to examine the subtle manifestations of sexism within the ranks of ACPA, and to educate the members about sexism and its professional effects.

Through round-table discussions, sponsored programs, publications, representation on ACPA boards and commissions, sponsored research projects, and networking, SCW brings women's issues to the forefront and empowers and supports women in their professional aspirations in higher education. Through education, empowerment, advocacy, and support, SCW works in collaboration with the ACPA membership at large to effect positive change for women in higher education.