

MARYLAND COLLEGE PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

LINKAGES

SPRING/SUMMER 2008

PRESIDENT'S PEN

By Michael Post, Mount St. Mary's University, MCPA President

It is often hard to believe that another year has come and gone. Thank you for being members of MCPA and thank you for helping us make a difference.

There's no doubt about it, MCPA had a amazing year in 2007! A few of our very best highlights include:

- *ACPA State Division of the Year Award!
- *Increased membership.
- *Improved and increased the level of communication with our membership through a bi-annual newsletter Linkages, bi-monthly updates called FYI_MCPA, and increased activity of the listserv.
- *Strong programs in which we continued to offer our colleagues in and around the state of Maryland: Fall Conference, Graduate School Fair, Mock Interview Program, Support Staff Conference, UMBC Assessment Conference and participation in the ACPA Convention Showcase.
- *MCPA recently created state division awards and the inaugural recipients were awarded at the Fall Conference.

- *Increased involvement from membership on program planning committees
- *The implementation of the MCPA Strategic Plan and the Diversity & Inclusion Statement.
- *Zero turnover in Executive Board members.

In early 2008, we have even more to look forward to:

- *The ability to become a member of ACPA and/or MCPA on the ACPA website
- *Collaborating with other professional organizations to offer new programs.
- *Offering more membership opportunities for graduate students.
- *Partnering with UMBC's Student Affairs Assessment Day to help provide a spring drive-in event for MCPA members.
- *Continuing our annual Support Staff Conference at the College of Notre Dame. There's no better way to encourage learning and community for the staff who support us every day.
- *And who could forget, the ACPA Conference in Washington DC!

Needless to say, our Executive Board members have been very busy. We truly strive to help our members succeed in their development. I am proud of our goals, efforts, recognition and achievements. Our Board is made up of some truly amazing professionals who volunteer their time to make a difference. Every month we strive to bring to you a small piece of ACPA and the great things they do for higher education.

If you are reading this and are not a member of MCPA, please join. Be a part of something great. Thank you to the rest of you who have helped us leave a positive footprint in the State of Maryland!

Good luck with the end of the year and have an enjoyable summer. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President of this wonderful organization.



Michael Post, MCPA President

ANNOUNCING THE 2008-2009 EXECUTIVE BOARD	2
ACPA CONVENTION UPDATE	2
BEYOND BOYS BEING BOYS	3
MCPA EXECUTIVE BOARD	4

MCPA Election Summary

The MCPA Executive Board would like to thank everyone for their participation in this year's elections. We were pleased to see everyone's involvement through voting, nominating colleagues as well as those who ran for a position. Here are our newly elected MCPA Executive Board members:

President Elect: Sara Furr (Mount St. Mary's University)

Members at Large: Angela Jackson Powell (U. MD)
 Karol Martinez (MICA)
 Kelvin Harris (UMBC)
 Tim Cherney (Loyola College)

Secretary: Katie McNiff (MICA)

Congratulations!



ACPA Convention Update

MCPA and its members were extremely involved and visible at ACPA's Annual Convention this spring in Atlanta. Most notably were the awards given to MCPA and several members! MCPA was awarded ACPA's "Outstanding State & International Division Award." Current President Mike Post was awarded the Mid-Level Professional Award and Brooke Donovan (also from Mount St. Mary's) was awarded the Outstanding New Professional Award from the Commission for Administrative Leadership.

Several MCPA members including those from the Executive Board participated in ACPA's first Town Hall Assembly Meeting. Member At Large Susan Martin (UMBC) coordinated Publications, Marketing and Operations for this year's Convention Planning Team while Past President Nicole Roop (UMD) was also involved with the Publications Planning Team. As always, MCPA and the state of Maryland were well represented through our colleagues' great presentation sessions.

Beyond “Boys Being Boys:” addressing discipline issues in college men

People often ask me why I focus my energy on the male college experience and why I work to create programs for this privileged population. Last week I was reminded yet again why I do. Last Friday evening I chose to serve as a chaperone at the Orioles/Yankee’s game at Camden Yards. An evening at Camden Yards is always an enjoyable experience and it is one of the few ballparks in the country that remind me how baseball became America’s Favorite Pastime. When I volunteered to serve as a staff participant on the trip, I may have missed the fine print where it noted that it was college night. College students from throughout the greater Baltimore area could get in for just six dollars. I didn’t fully conceptualize what that would mean as a chaperone.

The level of intoxication among the thousands of students from area colleges increased throughout the evening. The security and police presence amplified as the innings went on as well. By the end of the game I had witnessed four arguments, one individual taken out in handcuffs, and numerous drunken students crossing the boundary from having a good time to giving their alma maters a bad name. Having worked with college students for awhile, this was nothing overly surprising to me, but the arguments and fights were definitely of concern to me. Most important, and least surprising, everyone involved in a physical altercation was a college-aged male.

The scene I have described is

not a new one to any of us. Everyday we see men acting out and expressing hyper-masculine gender roles—exactly what they have learned from the celebrities and superstars they idolize. However, very few of us stop to question it, because we’ve all been socialized to accept that men should indeed “tough it out”, “man up”, and men definitely don’t “cry about it”. I have to wonder where this leaves our men, especially during four vital years of their life when they are trying to understand their own identity and make meaning of the world around them. As professionals in Student Affairs we are trained to help students explore the many facets of their identity, but we spend very little time helping college men explore what it means to be a man.

It is easy to get frustrated with male students. My gender has not made a great name for itself. The men I spoke of who got involved in fights at the ballpark that night are often brushed aside or excuses are allowed to explain the behavior. Testosterone and “boys being boys” often becomes the story we accept for the behavior. However, we must begin seeing beyond this as student affairs professionals. We must be aware of when the men on our college campuses are behaving in ways they’ve been socialized to behave and take that into account in the ways we respond to their behavior. This is not to suggest we should be gentler on them, but that we must have some sensitivity to the fact that many of these men are behaving in a way that is often encouraged and/or rewarded in our society.

Last November at the MCPA conference and most recently in February at the ASJA annual conference I presented on a program we have initiated at Loyola College that targets this type of behavior. The MAGIS (Masculinity Awareness Gained through Introspection & Solidarity) Program at Loyola College is a sanctioned group for eight male students each semester. Through four group meetings, the men in the group are forced to explore their decision-making, how it is linked to socialized masculine gender roles, and the emotions underlying their behavior.

The men in this group have opened up about numerous personal experiences in their lives and the discussions have really allowed the facilitators to target the behavior underneath the tough exterior. The group has shown us that when given the safe space to discuss these issues, men are more than willing to discuss the role they feel compelled to play and how that affects them. These men have opened up and shared stories of hurt, pain, guilt, fear, anxiety and loss. Unfortunately, the only emotion men have been socialized to feel and express is anger, when oftentimes anger is merely a façade for something deeper and more painful. We must help men to move beyond anger.

The MAGIS program is just one way we can begin catering our work to help college men become more aware of their own gender. We must begin exploring these unique ways of altering our work, so that we can help our college men make



better choices, have more fulfilling relationships and be better partners, husbands and fathers. If nothing else, as one student put it “this group has really opened me up emotionally—I know anger is not the answer.”

While I won’t be returning to Camden Yards on college night again anytime soon, I know we can begin to change the experience for students and their chaperones in the future. It is time, as college educators, that we can begin holding our men to a higher standard by allowing them to be the men we know they are capable of being.

For more information on the MAGIS program please contact the program coordinator, Peter Paquette at ppaquette@loyola.edu.

2007-2008 MCPA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Michael A. Post, Mount St. Mary's University, President (05-08)

Mike Taberski, Loyola College in Maryland, President-Elect (07-10)

Cally Rockwell Edwards, Past-President (04-07)

Rachel M. Rose, University of Maryland, College Park, Secretary (06-08)

Peter Paquette, Loyola College in Maryland, Treasurer (07-09)

Emerald Christopher, McDaniel College, Membership Coordinator (07-09)

Heather Kaneer, UMBC, Website/Newsletter Coordinator (07-09)

Katie Murray, Goucher College, Member-At-Large (07-09)

Seth Christman, Johns Hopkins University, Member-At-Large (07-09)

Corey M. Bailey, University of Maryland, College Park, Member-At-Large (07-09)

Erin Thiel, University of Maryland, College Park, Member-At-Large (07-09)

Caitlin T. L. White, University of Maryland, College Park, Member-At-Large (06-08)

Susan Martin, UMBC, Member-At-Large (06-08)



MCPA Executive Board Members

Emerald Christopher, Susan Martin,
Dan Tillapaugh, Mike Taberski

Erin Thiel, Heather Kaneer, Katie Murray, Mike Post

Peter Paquette, Seth Christman

(Not Pictured - Corey Bailey,
Caitlin White, Rachel Rose)

For more information or to get involved with MCPA,
please visit our website:

www.myacpa.org/sid/md/