



# MCPA Pathways

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## President's Corner

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **ACPA Conference**  
March 29-April 2
- **MCPA Fall Conference**  
October 16-17
- **MCPA Award Recipients (2008)**
- **Summer Drive-In Workshop** June 5
- **MCPA Job Posting Information**

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*Editor*  
Darren Kaltved  
Univ. of MN

I hope that everyone is enjoying this winter! Many things have been happening with MCPA and the board is very excited for the upcoming months. So far this year we had a very successful fall conference, a thought provoking drive-in workshop in January with Dr. Shakti Butler, and well attended "Careers in Student Affairs for New Professionals and Graduate Students" workshop in February.

To note, the international convention is being held March 29 – April 2, 2008 in Atlanta.



As stated on the APCA web site:

"This theme challenges us to intentionally focus on our individual and collective professional development by emphasizing three elements:

**PURPOSE:** Convention participants can make purposeful choices among professional outcomes that address contemporary knowledge, skills, and values.

**INCLUSION:** Convention participants can explore new ways in which our campuses and our profession can foster meaningful inclusion across the wide array of diversities.

**EXPERTISE:** Convention participants can build expertise that is based on the best of research in our profession.

Be challenged. Be purposeful. Atlanta awaits."

Major speakers for the convention are Reverend Peter Gomes, Nikki Giovanni, and Carol Gilligan. For more information on the speakers as well as registration, placement, program sessions, etc., please visit the web site at <http://convention.myacpa.org/>.

There are a couple of events that MCPA is taking part in at the convention. We are planning a joint reception with Wisconsin which will be held on Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup> from 7:30-9:00 PM at the Marroitt Marquis – L504. Join us for a dessert reception, good conversations and fabulous door prizes! We will also have a table at the convention showcase which is on Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:30-8:00 PM at the Hyatt Regency, Centennial Ballroom. This year's theme is "March Madness" so wear your school attire and stop by our table! If you are going to the convention and would like to help plan any of the state events, please email me and I will let you know how you can help.

If you are presenting at the convention, let me know as I would really like to share that information with our members so we can support you while presenting! Email me your presentation information and once dates and times are confirmed with the convention planning committee I will email the listserv.

There is a lot of great information in this newsletter! Let any of the board members know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding MCPA. We are here to serve you and to help make this the strongest state division of ACPA!

Stay warm,  
Aarin  
[aarin.distad@century.edu](mailto:aarin.distad@century.edu)



## 2008 FALL CONFERENCE

### William Mitchell College of Law

**Thursday & Friday,  
October 16 & 17, 2008  
Saint Paul, MN**

- **Election 2008**
- **Campus Politics**
- **Policy Legislation**
- **Barriers to Access**
- **Social Justice**



**SAVE THE DATE !!!**



### "A First For MCPA"

By: Matthew Antonio Bosch

2008 will be our first Fall Conference ever held at a graduate / professional school. On October 16 and 17, our 2008 Fall Conference will be hosted by William Mitchell College of Law in Saint Paul. Already we are in the planning stages. Buzzwords include: legislation, justice, equity, access, election, politics, legacy, policy. Ideas for keynote speakers? Volunteering for our Conference Committee? Email [mbosch@nhcc.edu](mailto:mbosch@nhcc.edu) to join our growing team!

Located in our state capital, William Mitchell College of Law serves as a perfect fit for our election-year conference. Perks include free conference parking, multi-tier classroom seating, and wheelchair accessibility. Grand Avenue provides dining options and nightlife for overnight attendees. Celebrating their 70th year, William Mitchell is hosting the regional Lavender Law Conference as well as MCPA's Fall Conference. Check out William Mitchell College of Law at [www.wmitchell.edu](http://www.wmitchell.edu)

**[www.myacpa.org/sid/mn](http://www.myacpa.org/sid/mn)**

# Social Networking for Student Affairs

By: Stuart Brown

In the past five years, according to a January 3, 2008 report by the Pew Internet & American Life Project, “social networking sites have rocketed from a niche activity into a phenomenon that engages tens of millions of internet users.” These sites are “an online place where a user can create a profile and build a personal network that connects him or her to other users.” The most well-known and most utilized sites include Facebook.com and MySpace.com.

The social network phenomenon had its genesis on college and university campuses. Remember when you needed an edu email account to join an institution’s Facebook.com network? Nowadays, most of the major networks do not have such restrictions. While this has allowed membership to skyrocket, the open door policy has diluted their impact for specific audiences.

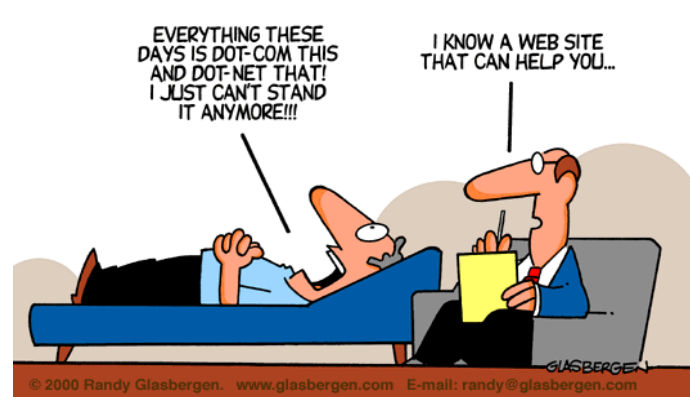
For student affairs administrators this problem has now been solved with the introduction of iStudentAffairs.com, launched in February 2008 as a social networking site for student affairs professionals that connects friends and colleagues with each other. Within a week of its introduction over 400 people joined, demonstrating the need and desire for this type of network. Individuals must register and be approved to access the site. Why are people asked to register? This is to ensure the integrity of the site. By keeping out spammers and advertisers, the focus remains on people interested in joining a community involved with higher education.

The response to the site has been overwhelmingly positive. Alex Herzog, Director of Campus Card Services at the University of Nevada – Las Vegas stated, “I can’t believe this site didn’t come about sooner. It’s a great resource for student affairs professionals and I personally like the ability to reconnect with colleagues in the field. I think this application is more personal and applicable for student affairs administrators than Facebook.”

Once people are registered, they can share program ideas, views on policy matters, photos, discussion forums and more. Within the first few days, dozens of interest-based groups that reflect personal interest or professional responsibilities were formed. These include such functional areas as residence life, career services and academic advising as well as a number of groups to connect alumni of graduate preparation programs. Personal blogs have been created, which are featured on the main page, as well as a wide variety of videos. “By combining member pages, photos and videos, and blogs this social network merges the best of Facebook, Myspace, Blogger, Livejournal, and Wordpress,” states Will Barratt, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership at Indiana State University. “This is the good stuff.” iStudentAffairs.com also provides, what the Pew report classifies as “public and private communication tools.” There is a built-in email system to correspond within the network, catch up with friends and surprise long lost colleagues. Individuals can also post messages to entire groups or write a post directly on someone’s My Page bulletin board, known as a Comment Wall.

The goal of iStudentAffairs.com? Continued growth with the desire to become the social networking site for student affairs professionals, where connecting, sharing, and collaborating will be commonplace.

*Stuart Brown heads the website StudentAffairs.com*



# MCPA Award Recipients



**Century College GPS LifePlan**  
Innovations in Student Development Award



**Mary Ann Ryan, University of St. Thomas**  
Lee Knepelkamp Research Award



**Tasia Tigue, University of St. Thomas**  
New Professional of the Year Award



**Carlos D. Sneed, Hamline University**  
Linda Schrempp Alberg Outstanding Contribution to  
Minnesota Higher Education Award



**T. Todd Masman, Bemidji State  
University**  
Lud Spolyar Distinguished Service Award



**Meaghan Stein, University of Minnesota**  
MCPA Outstanding Conference Program Award

## 2007 Fall Conference Summary: A Great Lake - A Fresh Perspective

By the time this article is printed it will be three months since the fall conference took place in Duluth. I think we have finally recovered and plans have already begun for next year's conference!

On October 22-23, 2007, 150 student affairs professionals from throughout our state spent their time connecting with colleagues new and old, attending a variety of program sessions on timely topics in our field, competing in the case study competition, taking to the stage at the Talent Show or raising money for scholarships through the first time Silent Auction (which raised over \$500!).

We were pleased to have had 26 institutions represented and also welcomed 60 first time attendees to the conference! In addition to the new talent show and silent auction initiatives, the planning committee followed suit with ACPA/NASPA and welcomed as the keynote speaker, arctic explorer/ educator and Duluth native, John Stetson. John shared highlights from recent expeditions with Will Steger and also challenged our profession on issues of global warming. The closing keynote, President Karen Halbersleben from Northland College in Ashland, WI brought these broader issues directly to our campuses by sharing the story of Northland College and how the environment is at the very heart of their institution.

MCPA is also very proud of the strong relationship with the international office, ACPA – College Student Educators International. We are appreciative of their continued support and were pleased to be joined at the conference by Executive Director, Gregory Roberts, Ed.S. who as many of you know, also has very strong roots here in Minnesota!

In addition to the above MCPA awards (see page 4), the winners of the **2007 Case Study** competition were First Place – Ashley Bowes and Milyon Trulove, University of St. Thomas and Second Place – Jenny Tran and Joy Hemmesch, University of St. Thomas. Congratulations!

We would also like to thank everyone who participated in the first annual Talent Show competition, and we congratulate the University of St. Thomas for their first place win!

We would like to thank all of the volunteers, presenters, MCPA board members, and the 2007 conference planning committee for their contributions toward a successful conference. Members of the conference planning committee include; Jill Akervik –University of St. Thomas, Eric Brandt – Lake Superior College, Kelly Crue – College of St. Benedict, Nina Exley – College of St. Catherine, Laura Hanson – Century College, Joe Kaufman – Macalester College, Joel Mixon – University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Katie Pierre – Century College, Katie Russell – University of St. Thomas, Meaghan Stein, University of Minnesota –Twin Cities, Colleen Stephens – University of St. Thomas, Katie Svoboda – Century College, Mary Beth Thompson – College of St. Benedict, ASM Saif Ullah – University of St. Thomas and Katie Vadnais – Century College.

If you were unable to join us at the 2007 conference, we hope that you will mark your calendar for the 2008 Fall Conference which will be held at William Mitchell College of Law on October 16-17. Please also check the MCPA website for upcoming drive-in workshops and events, <http://www.myacpa.org/sid/mn/>.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve as your 2007 conference co-chairs!

Dara Hagen , Century College  
Kristy Modrow-Ullah, Century College



## **It's Your Turn! Getting Involved in the MCPA Board** (by Jennifer Guyer-Wood)

I remember at the 2003 ACPA convention in Minneapolis, a colleague turned to me and said, "It's your turn. You need to run for a position on the board of MCPA." I'm so glad I took his advice which enabled me to spend the last 5 years on as a member of the board. This experience has been one of the most important professional development opportunities I've had and it has been more valuable than I ever imagined. It has also been a lot of work. I've made many trips to other campuses around the state for meetings and events. I've given up time that I could have spent doing my regular job duties or relaxing. Still, I can say with 100% certainty that it has been worth every minute.

As my time on the board comes to an end, I have the privilege of heading the elections and nominations committee for the 2008-2009 board year. In addition to our elected positions, our incoming president, Matthew Antonio Bosch, will be appointing a number of board members as well. Both of us would like to tell you that **it's your turn**. I thought I'd share some information on what you gain from being a board member and what it takes.

### **You want to be an MCPA board member because**

- You get to meet amazing and diverse professionals from around the state to develop working relationships, your network, and great friendships.
- You visit a number of campuses for meetings and events.
- You obtain wonderful professional development experience to build your resume or CV.
- You keep up with trends and issues in higher education.
- You can advocate for training and attention to issues that are important to you and professionals like you.
- You develop new skills that you can use to advance your career.

### **You know you're needed on the MCPA board when**

- You are passionate about higher education and students and you have a desire to give back to the profession.
- You know that you can commit for a year or two (depending on the position) to put some time, effort and energy into making MCPA a better organization.
- You have support from your direct supervisor and college or university to put work into your board position and in helping MCPA in general, to attend regular meetings around the state, and to participate in the MCPA conference and drive-in workshops.
- You're either a graduate student, new professional, mid-level professional, or senior student affairs officer from any type of Minnesota higher education institution. We want representation and perspectives from all types of members!
- You're committed to working toward inclusion in the field of student affairs.
- You're ready to be a positive and enthusiastic representative of MCPA to help to serve all members and to find new ones.

Does that sound like who you are and what you're looking for? If so, we want to hear from you. As we make our slate of nominated candidates and appointments, we look to put together a board that is as diverse as it can be, with representation from different types of institutions, levels of experience, functional areas, and backgrounds. The current board members are approving and working on the details of how the board will be organized next year. Details on open positions and the elections and appointments process will be posted on the MCPA website later in February. We'll also send an announcement of open positions to the listserv at that time. If you have interest in being a board member, please send me an e-mail at [Jennifer.guyer-wood@mnsu.edu](mailto:Jennifer.guyer-wood@mnsu.edu).

# Searching for the Right Job or Employee Doesn't Have to be Complicated....



**Check out the Weekly MCPA Job Posting Mailing  
or  
Post Positions by Emailing:  
[kristy.modrow@century.edu](mailto:kristy.modrow@century.edu)**

## **Save the Date**

### **MCPA Summer Drive-in Workshop!**

Thursday, June 5th

8:30am-2pm? 1:30pm?

**Title: Conflict Management for Student Affairs Professionals**

Watch your e-mail in the next month for registration information!