Our First 50 Years:
A Tribute to the 1960s

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Newsletter of the ACPA Commission For Admissions, Orientation & First Year Experience
Dear Commission Members,

Happy birthday! Convention season is always an exciting time, and this year will be particularly special as the AOFYE Commission, along with 10 other ACPA Commissions, celebrates its 50th anniversary and the birth of all Commissions. We are very proud to be among the first ACPA Commissions and to share this distinctive moment in the history of ACPA.

To celebrate this milestone, we thought we’d bring you back to the 1960s with this issue of Transitions and share a bit of our AOFYE history and milestones. AOFYE was originally founded as “Commission II” in 1961, and the name evolved over the decades to better reflect its purpose and the goals of its constituents. In 1977, the name was changed to “School-College Relations, Admissions, and Orientation;” in 1985, it became “Admissions and Orientation,” and the name was finally changed to its current one “Admissions, Orientation, and First Year Experience” in 1999. In addition, did you know that AOFYE, one of the largest Commissions, quadrupled its membership numbers over the past 30 years, with 238 members in 1978 and over 1,000 in 2011?

The whole concept of the Commission was to provide ACPA members with opportunities to get involved and to connect members of like professional interests, and we are offering numerous opportunities for this at Convention. This edition of Transitions is intended as a resource for your Convention experience, so that you can take full advantage of the AOFYE events and activities that promote our Commission mission and vision. These opportunities include our sponsored programs; 50th anniversary panel; Showcase booth; annual book giveaway; recognition of our Commission awards, research grant, and 2011 Diamond Honoree recipient, Dr. Joseph Cuseo; and our open member meeting and reception co-sponsored by the National Orientation Directors Association (NODA). In addition, this year we are proud to offer numerous ways to “Give More” in Baltimore through various service initiatives, and to connect with other members via our “Commission Connection” program. Please review this issue and the Convention program for information regarding schedules and locations of these events.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and honor those members of the directorate board who will be cycling off from their term of Commission leadership. AOFYE has been the lucky recipient of the time and talents of Jeannine Kranzow, Todd Chamberlain, and Nicole Craven. I would also like to welcome our newest directorate board members: Kathy Petras, Edward Wright, Melissa Lulay, and Matthew Weigand. We are very excited to have them on board!

I would also like to say that this issue of Transitions is bittersweet, as it marks my last newsletter as chair of AOFYE. In March I will be transitioning into the past-chair role and passing the baton into the capable hands of chair-elect, Jodi Koslow Martin. It’s been my honor to serve this Commission both as directorate board member and chair since 2006, and I am excited to see the new directions Jodi’s leadership will take us.

I’m very proud to be a part of the first 50 years of the AOFYE Commission, and look forward to what the next 50 years will bring. Have a GROOVY time at Convention this year-- my directorate board and I look forward to seeing you there!

Sara
Sara E. Hinkle
Chair
Commission for Admissions, Orientation and First Year Experience
At the ACPA convention this year, AOFYE will be one of 11 Commissions celebrating their 50th anniversary. Our own newsletter, Transitions, provides a great glimpse at our Commission’s activities over the years. We have uploaded issues dating back to 1994 on the commission website:
http://www.myacpa.org/comm/aofye/newsletters.cfm

Here are a few highlights of our Commission’s sponsored programs at the annual convention, as noted in the archives of Transitions:

- Freshmen Summer Institute: A Bridge from High School to College (1997)
- Winning Academically-Talented Students for Your Institution (1997)
- So You Want to Create a Community College Orientation Program (1999)
- Developing Leadership Potential from Student Recruiter to Alumni Volunteers (2000)
- Rituals and Community in New Student Orientation (2000)
- Institutional Response Towards Prospective Students in Times of Crisis (2005)
- Freshman Interest Groups: Sophomore Students Reflect on Their FIG Experience (2006)
- A Strengths-Based Approach to the First-Year Experience (2007)
- New Student Orientation and Adult Learners: Making Content Relevant (2008)
- Implementing Social Justice and Diversity Components into First-Year Orientation Programs (2010)

What will the next 50 years of AOFYE look like? We look forward to finding out!
Commission Sponsored Programs at the 2011 Convention

Each year, ACPA Commissions sponsor a select group of conference programs that show particular promise for excellence and representation of their functional areas. The Commission for Admissions, Orientation, & First Year Experience is proud to sponsor six programs at the 2011 Convention. This year’s sponsored programs demonstrate the great diversity of issues addressed by this commission and its members.

Affirmative Action for Men: Is it Legal? Is it Ethical?

Women are outnumbering men on college campuses across the nation by a ratio of 57% to 43%. In an attempt to balance out the ratio of men to women, some colleges have attempted to tip the scales by giving men an advantage during the admissions process. This program will explore the legal and ethical issues of gender-conscious affirmative action plans in higher education.

Holly E Ennis, Rutgers University-New Brunswick holly.ennis@gmail.com
Amanda Steeber, Rutgers University- New Brunswick asteeber@echo.rutgers.edu

Beyond Traditional Welcome Weeks: Changing a Culture, Creating a Community

Scarlet Knight Days are a large university’s innovative attempt to make a big school feel smaller. By extending the traditional welcome week and encouraging participation from all university departments, Scarlet Knight Days creates a community by celebrating the uniqueness of each individual campus and introduces students to various resources. This presentation can teach the importance of being flexible and reflective in creating a change in the university’s culture to develop new traditions.

Kristin M. Cothran, Rutgers University-New Brunswick kcothran@rci.rutgers.edu
Barry Hendler, Rutgers University- New Brunswick bhendler@eden.rutgers.edu

Admissions, Orientation, First Year Experience: Past, Present, and Future Reflections

Student affairs professionals should inform their current and future practice through a clear understanding of the history, philosophy, and values of the field (ACPA/NASPA, 2010). To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the Commission for Admissions, Orientation and First Year Experience (AOFYE) has invited a panel of leaders within the AOFYE field to reflect upon how the profession has evolved over the past five decades, share insights about current trends, and ponder future directions.

Sara Hinkle, Hofstra University sara.hinkle@hofstra.edu

Building/Room: Baltimore Convention Center - 346
Date/Time: Monday, March 28, 09:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Building/Room: Baltimore Convention Center - 338
Date/Time: Monday, March 28, 12:00 PM - 01:00 PM

Building/Room: Baltimore Convention Center - 322
Date/Time: Monday, March 28, 01:30 PM - 02:30 PM
Developing Technological Competencies in First-Year Experience Courses

First-year experience courses can provide ideal environments for developing technological competencies and skills among our students. In this presentation, we will demonstrate multiple methods of utilizing technology as a complement to course delivery and assignments, including blogs, microblogs, wikis, word clouds, course management systems, discussion boards, and social networking sites. Participants will leave with a greater understanding of how to implement relevant technologies in their own courses.

Melissa L. Johnson, University of Florida  mjohnson@honors.ufl.edu
Mike Severy, University of North Carolina at Pembroke mike.severy@uncp.edu

Student Expectations About College: Is the “Freshman Myth” Still Relevant?

Students’ expectations about college offer a critical measure of student needs to direct first-year programming. This presentation draws from trends of CIRP Freshman Survey data to analyze how expectations among college freshmen have changed over the past 40 years. Further, this study uses data from the CIRP Freshman Survey and Your First College Year (YFCY) survey to evaluate whether student expectations are unrealistically high and to investigate the pattern of expectation fulfillment or disillusionment generally and across various student sub-groups.

Jennifer R. Keup, University of South Carolina-Columbia, Director, National Resource Center keupj@mailbox.sc.edu

Recruitment and Retention: Be More Through Social Media (Roundtable)

Social Media tools have moved beyond the newest fad and into the realm of integrated practices in recruitment and retention offices. This roundtable discussion will provide participants with the opportunity to ask questions, share ideas, and collaborate on what has or has not worked well when it comes to implementing these tools at their institution. Join these presenters as they facilitate a conversation based on up-to-date research and practical knowledge.

Edward Paul Wright, Mount Saint Mary’s University wright@msmary.edu
Michael Post, Mount Saint Mary’s University post@msmary.edu
Dr. Joseph B. Cuseo, professor emeritus of psychology at Marymount College and member of the advisory board to the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition, has been successfully nominated by the Commission for Admissions, Orientation, and First Year Experience (AOFYE) as an ACPA Foundation Diamond Honoree to recognize his contributions to higher education and student affairs as a whole.

A fundraising campaign has been launched on his behalf, with all funds raised going to support two of ACPA’s priorities: research and other scholarly activities and scholarships for members to participate in ACPA’s professional development opportunities. AOFYE commission members are encouraged to recognize Dr. Cuseo’s contributions to the areas of admissions, orientation, and the first year experience by contributing to this campaign.

Consider giving a donation of $50 to commemorate the AOFYE commission’s 50th anniversary, although any amount would be appreciated. For more information, please see: http://acpafoundation.org/content/contribute-foundation
In May of 2006, I graduated from Ithaca College with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Speech Communication. My involvements at Ithaca were ultimately what led me to pursue my Master’s Degree from Northeastern University in Counseling and Applied Psychology with a concentration in College Student Development and Counseling. During my time at Northeastern, I had a NODA internship (SUNY Purchase) as well as a practicum placement in a department of first-year programs at a neighboring institution (Brandeis University). Both of these positions strengthened my interest in pursuing a full-time position in this area of student affairs. After graduating from Northeastern in May of 2008, I began my current position at Marist College as a Coordinator of First Year Programs and Leadership Development. In this role, I am a live-on professional in one of the first-year residence halls. At Marist, First-Year Programs is frequently the gateway to the students for many other offices. Because of this, I have had the experience of working with a variety of offices across campus including Housing and Residential Life, the Center for Advising and Academic Services, and the Wellness Center, among others. Through my position and the many collaborations I have had with other offices across campus, my experiences at Marist have been quite diverse.

I’ve been working in student affairs for nearly eight years. As a heavily involved undergraduate student, I initially went into the teaching field and returned to Student Affairs three years later. Through working at Baldwin-Wallace College, I’ve been able to gain experience in several areas including: new student orientation programs, leadership development, student activities, wellness education, and fraternity and sorority life. Orientation and leadership programs are now my main responsibilities in my current position. Being able to work at a small college has really helped me to become a well-rounded student affairs professional. I’m heavily involved in the lives of the students in many areas, so I get to see their personal development from many sides.
I received my master’s degree in College Student Personnel Administration from Canisius College and then began working in residence life. In the winter of 2009, I was hired as the Assistant Director for Admissions at Mount St. Mary’s University where my job description combines admissions and student affairs work. I supervise over 150 student workers who help in the recruitment process of undergraduate students; I coordinate over 60 admissions events sponsored each year through our office; and I am in charge of all social media projects used in the recruitment of new students. I have attended and presented at the National Student Recruitment Conferences in Pittsburgh, PA on the use of student recruiters in the admissions process, at the Maryland College Personnel Association conferences on the use of social media in the recruitment cycle, and at the ACPA national convention on the combination of social media and tradition marketing in the recruitment process (a AOFYE sponsored program). This March, I will also be presenting at ACPA through an AOFYE sponsored roundtable discussion on social media and a full presentation on recognizing and training student leaders through the admissions process.

I currently serve as Director of New Student Programs at the University at Buffalo (SUNY), overseeing orientation programs, first-year seminars, and parent and family programs for an incoming class of approximately 3,200 first-year and 1,700 transfer students. I have presented workshops at national conferences and published articles/book chapters on such topics as first-year student success, multicultural competence and diversity, and transfer student services. I have been actively involved in professional associations, including ACPA, NASPA, and particularly NODA, where I served on the board of directors, national and regional conference committees, and in other leadership roles. I received my bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees from the University at Buffalo, and currently serve as an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Educational Leadership & Policy.

Matt Weigand

Edward Wright
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE! WE WILL MISS YOU!!!

The Commission for Admissions, Orientation, and First Year Experience bids a fond farewell to our outgoing Directorate Board Members. We will miss you!

Nicole Craven  
Program Coordinator  
Undergraduate Admissions & First Year Experience  
The Ohio State University

Jeannine Kranzow  
Assistant Professor,  
School of Education  
Argosy University, Tampa

Todd Chamberlain  
Doctoral Candidate  
Indiana University
Convention Schedule Highlights

ACPA 2011 Convention Schedule Highlights

Convention Connection Meet-ups
Monday, March 28
7:30am and 5:00pm
Meet in the Sheraton Hotel lobby. We will walk as a group to a nearby coffee shop or restaurant.
Are you looking for an opportunity to connect with other AOFYE commission professionals at Convention? Meet and network with other colleagues who work in or support the areas of admissions, orientation, and first year experience; all are encouraged to attend, from graduate students to seasoned professionals!

Convention Showcase 2011
Monday, March 28
6:30pm - 8:00pm
Baltimore Convention Center - Hall E - Showcase
Make sure to visit the Commission table during this year’s convention showcase.
Browse through our many resources, learn how to get involved with the Commission’s work, and network with Directorate Board Members.
Be sure to bring your business card to enter our annual book drawing. We are raffling 50 books to celebrate our 50th anniversary! Books to be raffled include:

- Dan Koeppel “Banana: The Fate of the Fruit that Changed the World”
- Dinaw Mengestu “The Beautiful Things that Heaven Bears”
- William Kamakwamba “The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind”
- Kevin Levin Coburn and Madge Lawrence Treeger “Letting Go: A Parent’s Guide to Understanding the College Years”
- Lynn F. Jacobs, Ph.D and Jeremy S Hyman, M.A. “Professor’s Guide to Getting Good Grades in College”

AOFYE/NODA Open Meeting & Reception
Tuesday, March 29
2:30 - 4:30pm
Hilton Baltimore - Holiday 3
See if you won any of our 50 books, celebrate our 50th anniversary, meet our Commission award winners, and more!
AOFYE/NRC Research Grant Award Winner
Annemarie Vaccaro and Barbara Newman of the University of Rhode Island have been awarded a $500 grant for their research study, How First-Year Students from Under-Represented Groups Develop a Sense of Belonging. This grant is co-sponsored annually by the ACPA Commission for Admissions, Orientation and First Year Experience and the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition.

2011 Award Winners

Outstanding Experienced Professional (4-10 years)
Amy Arbino-Wylie
Associate Dean of Students
Northern Kentucky University

Outstanding New Professional
Natalie Gempesaw-Pangan
Assistant Director of New Student Programs
American University

Outstanding Undergraduate Student
Andrew Dinett
The University of New Orleans

Outstanding Project/Program
The One Project at the University of Maryland-College Park has been selected as the 2011 Outstanding Project/Program by the ACPA Commission for Admissions, Orientation and First Year Experience. Congratulations to the Maryland staff for their work to retain LGBTQ students and their allies at the University of Maryland by providing intentional academic and personal growth and promoting the development of those students.

http://www.theoneprojectumd.com/

Outstanding Collaborative Initiative
The Student Success Program at Guilford College has been selected as the 2011 Outstanding Collaborative Initiative by the ACPA Commission for Admissions, Orientation and First Year Experience. Congratulations to the staff of the Admissions Office, Academic Dean’s Office, First Year Experience, Orientation, Campus Life, and Residence Life for your collaborative work to retain students by helping them make good decisions about studying, assisting them in asking for help, and connecting them to the campus and campus resources.

http://www.guilford.edu/about_guilford/services_and_administration/associate_academic_dean/students/StudentSuccessProgram.html
Convention Spotlight: 2010 AOFYE/NRC Research Grant Award Winners

Jennifer Hodges and Christopher Tankersley have been working diligently to research Orientation Leaders and the affects the position has upon students as individuals. Hodges and Tankersley will be presenting their finding and the progress they have made over the past year. Listed below is the presentation information and a brief description of their project.

Becoming an Orientation Leader: A Catalyst for Self-Authorship Development
Building/Room: Hilton Baltimore - Key 6
Date/Time: 3/29/11 09:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Most institutions utilize orientation leaders (OLs) in their orientation programs. Research on OL training has focused predominantly on staff selection and training design. What impact does becoming an Orientation Leader have on the OLs themselves? Using self-authorship as a framework, we explored this question through individual interviews, observations, and the Self-Authorship Survey. Join us for a discussion of the results and how our findings could contribute to your campuses’ orientation leader training as well as other student development programming.

2009 AOFYE Research Grant Award Winners’ Report

Dr. Jan Lloyd and Dr. Jennifer Beyer from University of South Florida (USF) Polytechnic have released a summary of their research on the experiences of transfer students participating in online orientation compared to those who attended face-to-face orientation. Their study, supported by a research grant from the AOFYE commission, found that students who attended the face-to-face orientation felt more comfortable at the institution and felt they had a better understanding of academic policies and degree requirements. See http://www.myacpa.org/comm/aofye/award_winners_2009.cfm for a fuller summary of their study and findings.

The Marine Corps Leadership Scholar Program

The Marine Corps Leadership Scholar Program (LSP) is seeking educational institutions with whom to partner in order to provide expedited admission processing for qualified Marines when they transition back to civilian life after separation from active duty or retirement. Originally launched with the California State University System, the program has grown and been formalized Marine Corps-wide. There are currently 85 campuses around the nation who are participating in this program. Among the participants are: the California State University System, University of North Carolina System, Virginia Tech, Columbia, Colgate, Auburn, University of New Mexico, and Colorado State-Pueblo. To learn more about how your university/college can participate, please contact Beth Morgan, Director, Higher Education Initiatives, at (760) 429-4124 or email: Beth.Morgan@usmc.mil
National Aquarium: Stunning exhibits featuring jellyfish, dolphins, and native Australian animals, as well as a 4-D Immersion Theater allows one to get closer to the sights, sounds, and smells than ever before. More than 11,000 aquatic animals make this Inner Harbor destination Baltimore’s most popular attraction.

The Baltimore Museum of Art: Maryland’s largest art museum showcases a dazzling collection, plus ever-changing exhibitions. This major cultural destination offers a variety of innovative programs. Free general admission.

Edgar Allen Poe House and Museum: Edgar Allen Poe’s house is now open to the public as a modest museum with self-guided tours. Featuring various china and glassware, as well as furniture belonging to Poe, the house allows visitors to witness where Poe created his work. His gravesite is not far from the home.

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine: This 18th century fort defended Baltimore Harbor during the War of 1812 and is the birthplace of our national anthem. The defense of the star-shaped fort during the Battle of Baltimore inspired Francis Scott Key to write the Star-Spangled Banner. The different exhibits in the museum and outdoor activities give visitors the opportunity to see the historic attraction.

Baltimore Heritage Walk: The Heritage Walk is a 3.2 mile walking trail connecting 20 historic sites and museums in a compact area just beyond Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. Guided and self-guided tours are available for guests to choose which attractions they would like to visit.

Ed Kane’s Water Taxis: The 16 blue and white boat system offers one price for all-day, unlimited on-off service to over 30 attractions. Similar to a bus line, the water taxis travel on different routes through the harbor, allowing passengers to make transfers all throughout the day to visit as many sites as they wish.
In concert with our Convention theme, we invite you to “Give More In Baltimore!” during the 2011 ACPA Annual Convention! As we gather together in Baltimore – a bustling city known for its hospitality and civic pride – let us be more and serve more. In exchange for the warm welcome we will receive from the people of Baltimore, let us give back to this “city of neighborhoods” in service to their community, by:

- Packing an extra dress suit and/or accessories to donate to our Dress for Success Drive on site to benefit the Center for Urban Families in Baltimore
- Volunteering at one of several Community Service Projects going on across the city on Tuesday, March 29 at 8 AM – 1 PM
- Offsetting the carbon emissions resulting from your travel through Carbonfund.org when and where you register at the Convention Center in Baltimore
- Serving the ACPA community as a Convention or C3 volunteer

In commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Commissions for Student Involvement and the Commission for Admissions, Orientation, and First Year Experience we suggest another “50 Ways To Give More In Baltimore” before, during, and after our Convention. For more information or to get involved, visit us online at www.myacpa.org/comm/student/, or contact Sarah Hermsmeier (shermsmeier@uky.edu) or Kristin Cothran (kcothran@echo.rutgers.edu). When in Baltimore, visit the Hospitality Center in the Convention Center to sign up to volunteer!

“Dress for Success” Drive

“Give More In Baltimore!” Pack an extra dress suit and/or accessories to donate to our Dress for Success Drive on site to benefit the Center for Urban Families in Baltimore. The Center for Urban Families helps individuals build skills and the confidence to find their personal power to change (www.cfuf.org). Since 1999, the Center has served Baltimore’s most challenged and vulnerable citizens, changing the lives of men, women, and their children primarily by connecting them to career paths and strong family models. To participate, bring your items to donate to us on site at the Hospitality Center in the Convention Center in Baltimore. We will be collecting women’s and men’s dress suits, (separate pieces also accepted) shoes, and accessories throughout the Convention. Any questions please contact Kristin Cothran at kcothran@echo.rutgers.edu.
Community Service Projects

“Give More In Baltimore!” Volunteer at one of several Community Service Projects going on across the city on Tuesday, March 29 at 8 AM – 1 PM. Projects are determined based upon community needs in Baltimore, involve small teams of 10-15 volunteers participating in 2-3 hours of service, and incorporate pre-service education and post-service reflection. ACPA members interested in volunteering can sign up prior to the Convention by contacting Sarah Hermsmeier (shermsmeier@uky.edu), or on site at the Hospitality Center in the Convention Center in Baltimore.

Carbonfund.org Initiative

“Give More In Baltimore!” Offset the carbon emissions resulting from your travel through Carbonfund.org when you register on site at the Volunteers Table at the Convention Center in Baltimore. Carbonfund.org is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that challenges individuals and organizations to, “Reduce What You Can, Offset What You Can’t™,” and makes it easy and affordable to reduce or offset your carbon footprint. The average American’s total carbon footprint is 50,000 pounds per year – the average ACPA member can offset emissions from their air travel to Baltimore for less than $10.00. To participate, visit us on site at the Volunteers Table in the Convention Center in Baltimore.

ACPA Convention and C3 Volunteer

From C3 and conference registration to special events and hospitality, we need hundreds of volunteers to support the wonderful convention programs and activities. Consider signing up for an hour or two. Volunteering at ACPA is a terrific networking opportunity, and your support helps minimize the overall convention costs.

General volunteer opportunities can be found here <tinyurl.com/ACPA2011>. Simply create a log-in name and choose an opportunity that fits your schedule and interests.

If you are specifically interested in volunteering for C3, sign-up online at http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/2323456349859900125. All of the shifts for C3 are labeled as such and there is also a short description of what is required of the volunteers in each of the six different areas. The C3 volunteer coordinator, Emily Reetz, can be reached at esr317@hotmail.com
BECOME A FAN ON FACEBOOK

There is an association-wide effort to increase the number of “fans” of ACPA on Facebook. To become a fan of ACPA, visit http://www.facebook.com/myACPA.

Also, be sure to visit the AOFYE Facebook fan page at: www.facebook.com/ACPAAOFYE.

You can "Like" the fanpage by clicking the icon at the top of the page. After doing that, you can go on the left-hand side of the page to invite your friends. This is another way to keep up to date on what is happening in ACPA.

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