Letter from the Chair

Dear Commission Members,

I hope this issue of Transitions helps you prepare for the upcoming ACPA/NASPA Joint Meeting. Wow! Ten years has passed since the last Joint Meeting! It seems like yesterday that the Indianapolis Convention ended! Time sure flies!

I hope that you will be able to join us for this historic event. The Commission is very excited and will be there in full force! I would like to thank the directorate for all of their hard work. Over the past few months, they have reviewed programs and award nominations, prepared for the Showcase, and updated our website and Commission materials. We invite you to join us for various Commission-sponsored and ancillary programs during the Joint Meeting. Additional information can be found in this newsletter. We recognize the importance of our membership, and welcome you to become more actively involved in the Commission.

The Joint Meeting will also be the time that my term as Chair ends. As I reflect on my term, I think about all of the accomplishments we have made. We revamped our newsletter and website; developed a mentor program; sponsored two ACPA E-learning courses, developed a better way for our directorate board to communicate with each other throughout the year, and there are more accomplishments to come! I will continue to work with ACPA by serving as a member of the Sustainability Taskforce, so I’m not completely out of the picture. ☺

We’re really looking forward to seeing you in Orlando. If you have any questions regarding any of our sponsored programs and events, do not hesitate to contact me or any of the directorate board members. Our contact information can be found at http://www.myacpa.org/comm/aofye/directorate_members.html. See you in a few weeks, and safe travels!

Regards,

Janelle G. Simmons
Chair, ACPA Commission for Admissions, Orientation, and the First-Year Experience
Commission-Sponsored Sessions at the 2007 Joint Meeting

Brad Cox and Kathleen Gillon

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, and the First-Year Experience is proud to sponsor three exciting programs at the 2007 Joint Meeting. This year’s sponsored programs demonstrate the great diversity of issues addressed by this commission and its members. In Fact vs. Fiction, the presenters remind us how the media and literature shape both student expectations and institutional practices. The presenters of Shaping the Future consider unique ways in which colleges and universities can engage the surrounding communities in discussions about big issues in higher education. In A Strength-Based Approach, the presenters encourage us to examine how focusing on the unique strengths of individual students can improve motivation, engagement, and learning. As you plan your conference schedule, be sure to consider this year’s sponsored programs. We think you’ll enjoy them.

Next year, you too can have a program session sponsored by the Commission for Admissions, Orientation, and the First-Year Experience. When submitting your proposal, just be sure to check the box indicating you’d like your proposal considered for sponsorship. We’re looking forward to reading your great proposals for next year’s conference.

2007 JOINT MEETING SPONSORED PROGRAMS

Fact versus Fiction: The First-Year Experience as Portrayed in Literature
Coordinating Presenter: Kristen McKinney
Monday, April 2  8:30 AM – 9:45 AM
Naples 1 – Gaylord

Abstract: Media images and data from national surveys are two of the many sources of information we use to help make meaning in our profession. This session presents a critical examination of media and data perspectives on the first-year experience, utilizing themes from recent books along with national data sources to examine issues of mental health, adjustment to college, civic engagement, engagement and disengagement from academics, and comparisons of faculty and student values and perspectives.

Shaping the Future of Student Affairs by Listening to Community Members’ Voices
Coordinating Presenter: Kasey Alpay
Monday, April 2  1:45 PM – 3:00 PM
Miami 2 – Gaylord

Abstract: This session presents research findings from the voices of community members about college access and encourages a discussion about how community dialogues may be useful to student affairs administrators. Over 1,000 community participants in Michigan engaged in deliberative dialogues about “who is college for?”. The participants most often talk about the barriers to attending college. The emergent themes from this study have the potential to inform how our roles as student affairs professionals are important to increasing access to college.

A Strengths-Based Approach to the First Year Experience
Coordinating Presenter: Laurie Schreiner
Tuesday, April 3  1:45 PM – 3:00 PM
Grand Ballroom Salon 2 – Marriott

Abstract: This session will present a strengths-based approach to orientation and the first-year seminar. A strengths-based approach identifies the talents already within the student at entrance to college, using them as the motivational foundation for acquiring new knowledge and skills that lead to student engagement and success. Best practices from a variety of institutions, along with activities and instruments for assessing students’ strengths, will be provided to participants.
Commission-Sponsored Sessions at the 2007 Joint Meeting, cont.

OTHER ADMISSIONS, ORIENTATION, AND FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE SESSIONS

In addition to the sponsored programs, of course, several other programs at this year’s meeting will address topics related to Admissions, Orientation, and the First-Year Experience. To help you quickly identify sessions that may be of interest to you, we’ve identified several that may be of interest to Commission members. With so many sessions at this year’s meeting, we couldn’t possibly list all the relevant sessions in this newsletter. Therefore, while we encourage you to consider attending the following sessions, we also hope you will take a close look at the full conference schedule to identify other sessions that may best meet your interests.

Admissions

College Connection - Dreams to Reality: A Community College - High School Enrollment Collaborative
Coordinating Presenter: Magdalena de la Teja
Monday, April 2 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM
Sanibel 2&3 – Gaylord

College Access: The Power of Parents in the Path to Higher Education
Coordinating Presenter: Judy Marquez Kiyama
Monday, April 2 1:45 PM - 3:00 PM
Sun Ballroom 1 – Gaylord

Strategic Recruitment, Selection, Retention, and Graduation of Men of Color
Coordinating Presenter: Malcolm Williams
Tuesday, April 3 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM
Orange Blossom Ballroom – Gaylord

Orientation

Partnering with Parents: Civility Workshop at Parent Orientation
Coordinating Presenter: Randall Timm
Monday, April 2 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM
Sun Ballroom 2 – Gaylord

Puedo Ayudarte? Creating Programming for Bilingual Parents at Orientation
Coordinating Presenter: April Mann
Tuesday, April 3 10:15 AM – 11:30 AM
Grand Ballroom Salon 8A – Marriott

Crossroads of Orientation: The Road to Group Advising
Coordinating Presenter: Amanda Fawcett
Tuesday, April 3 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM
Grand Ballroom Salon 4 - Marriott

Shaping the “Facebook” of Higher Education: Teaching Online Street-Smarts during New Student Orientation
Coordinating Presenter: Staci Lynne Hersh
Tuesday, April 3 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM
Vinoy – Marriott

There are many program options for the ACPA/NASPA Joint meeting – these are a sampling of those with a topical focus related to AOFYE areas

AOFYE Commission Represents at National First-Year Experience Conference
Commission directorate board members demonstrating leadership at the national conference

Jennifer Keup
Presented “Fact or Fiction: How do common student stereotypes compare to national data on the First-Year Experience” and “The Intersection of Diversity and Climate for First-Year Students”

Janelle Simmons
Presented “Integrating Sustainability Into the First-Year Experience”

Leanna Fenneberg
Recognized as National First-Year Student Advocate
Commission-Sponsored Sessions at the 2007 Joint Meeting, cont.

OTHER ADMISSIONS, ORIENTATION, AND FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE SESSIONS

First-Year Experience

Greeks and the First-Year Experience: Removing Myths and Making Meaning
Coordinating Presenter: Robert DeBard
Monday, April 2  8:30 AM - 9:45 AM
Sun Ballroom D – Gaylord

Homeschoolers Off to College: How are they Handling the Transition?
Coordinating Presenter: Mary Beth Bolle
Monday, April 2  8:30 AM - 9:45 AM
Atlanta – Marriott

Transfer Student Adjustment: Needs and Recommendations
Coordinating Presenter: Randy Mitchell
Monday, April 2  8:30 AM - 9:45 AM
Sun Ballroom 2 - Gaylord

Branching Out or Breaking Off? A Study of First-Year Student Social Networks
Coordinating Presenter: Todd Chamberlain
Monday, April 2 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM
Sun Ballroom C – Gaylord

Supporting First-Year Students’ Success by Making Their Achievement Possible
Coordinating Presenter: Sherry Woosley
Monday, April 2  1:45 PM - 3:00 PM
Chicago – Marriott

Residential Curricula: Powerful Education through Intentional Freshman-Sophomore Year Connections
Coordinating Presenter: Kathleen G. Kerr
Tuesday, April 3  8:30 AM - 9:45 AM
Miami 3 – Gaylord

A Unique MAP for Residence Hall Professionals and Their First-Year Students
Coordinating Presenter: Sherry Woosley
Tuesday, April 3  10:15 AM - 11:30 AM
Sun Ballroom 2 – Gaylord

Retaining Students Through the First Year Experience: Academic Coursework, Mentoring & Programming
Coordinating Presenter: Todd Cellini
Tuesday, April 3 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM
Osceola Ballroom 1 - Gaylord

Understanding the First-Year Experience through Learning Outcomes and Assessment
Coordinating Presenter: Andrea Dowhower
Tuesday, April 3  10:15 AM - 11:30 AM
Osceola Ballroom B – Gaylord

Shaping and Transforming Education through Multicultural Integration in the First-Year Experience
Coordinating Presenter: Frank Ross
Tuesday, April 3  3:30 PM - 4:45 PM
Chicago – Marriott

Get More from FYRE
Coordinating Presenter: Amanda Dubois
Wednesday, April 4     8:00 AM - 9:15 AM
Osceola Ballroom B - Gaylord
Where have all the white students gone?
A Review of Jonathan Kozol’s
The Shame of the Nation: The Restoration of Apartheid Schooling in America

Kathleen Gillon

With the 1954 Supreme Court ruling that outlawed racial segregation of public education systems came a period in American history where children of various races, ethnicities, and socio-economic statuses were finally allowed to learn together in integrated classrooms. Yet over fifty years later, the United States finds its education system has involuntarily returned to a state of “segregated demographics and extreme inequities” (287). In his most recent book, The Shame of the Nation (2005), Jonathan Kozol investigates the disparities regarding the current state of American public education which he argues is most directly related to the racially segregated condition of today’s classrooms.

Set against the backdrop of New York City in addition to urban areas in such states as California, Kentucky, Illinois, Texas, and Washington, The Shame of the Nation illustrates the ghastly realities of today’s segregated public education system. Using the rich stories of school children, teachers, administrators, researchers, and policy makers, Kozol paints a vivid picture of urban public schools where the days of recess have been replaced with days of preparation for standardized testing, overcrowded and decrepit school buildings have been replaced or subsidized by portables and trailers, and classrooms that once resembled a “melting pot” of races and ethnicities have been replaced with a majority population of Black and Hispanic students.

Relying heavily on personal interviews as well as news reports and editorials from periodicals such as The New York Times, The Shame of the Nation explores the relationship between a socially and racially stratified education system and such issues as funding, standardized testing, pre-K education, and mandated forms of pedagogy. Careful not to exclude the role federal policy has played in this return to segregation, Kozol critically challenges the intricacies vis-à-vis the current Bush Administration’s education reform and argues that children truly are being “left behind”.

In a time when access and equity regarding college and university admissions is ever salient, Kozol’s The Shame of the Nation brings to light many of the same issues that are facing the K-12 education system, revealing their interconnectedness. Whether you read this book as a student, educator, parent, or advocate, you will no doubt be left questioning your own role in today’s segregated state of education.


Jonathan Kozol will address members of ACPA and NASPA at this year’s joint meeting on Monday, April 2nd at 10:45 am. For those members attending the joint meeting and seeking more on the topic of K-12 education, the following presentation will speak to the question of “When is it the student affairs professional’s responsibility to help shape students’ education in the K-12 system?”

Enhancing K-12 Education: Examining Community College Professional’s Responsibility
Coordinating Presenter: Matt Matera
Monday, April 2 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM
Osceola Ballroom 6 - Gaylord

Congratulations!
The AOFYE commission recognizes the following award recipients this year:

Outstanding Project Award
University of California, Santa Cruz College Eight Sustainability Project-Susan Welte

Outstanding New Professional Award
Ms. Britta Gibson, Program Manager, University of St.Thomas

Outstanding Experienced Professional Award
Roseanne Fong, Director, New Student Services, University of California, Berkeley

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award
Ms. Blair Rhodes, George Mason University
**Beyond the Conference…**

**Orlando Destinations**

**Paul Eaton**

Aside from Disney World and Universal Studios, Orlando has a lot to offer. Looking for some fun and unique evening entertainment while in Orlando? Check out our guide to exciting attractions!

**Wall Street Plaza**

Located in the heart of downtown Orlando, this is the perfect spot for those of you seeking to experience unique Orlando culture outside the Disney and Universal Studios realm. Wall Street Plaza offers you the opportunity to visit eight unique bars and restaurants for the admittance price of one! Wall Street Plaza is located 20 miles from the conference hotels. For more information on the venues located in the Wall Street Plaza, visit [www.wallstplaza.net](http://www.wallstplaza.net)

**International Drive Resort Area**

For those of you looking to stay closer to the conference, International Drive has all the attractions you need. In addition to a wide variety of restaurants and food, you can also see some of the other attractions Orlando has to offer. If you are looking for culture, you can visit the [Charles Mosmer Morse Museum of American Art](http://www.charlesmuseum.org) or the [Orlando Museum of Art](http://www.orlandomuseumofart.org).

Nature enthusiasts will be happy to know that International Drive Orlando also offers you access to [Blue Spring State Park](http://www.floridastateparks.org) where you can see endangered manatees, as well as [Homosassa Spring State Park](http://www.floridastateparks.org), where you can use the floating observatory to view underwater plant and wildlife.

International Drive offers a trolley service for visitors to navigate the large space which it occupies. The I-Drive Trolley operates daily from 8:00 AM – 10:30 PM at a cost of $3.00 for a day pass.

For more information on I-Drive and all it has to offer, please visit [www.internationaldriveorlando.com](http://www.internationaldriveorlando.com)

**Directorate Board**

**Congratulations** to the following individuals who have been selected to serve in the leadership roles of directorate board members for the ACPA Admissions, Orientation and First-Year Experience Commission starting their term of office with the ACPA/NASPA Joint meeting 2007.

- **Andrew K. Koch**
  Director of Student Access, Transition and Success Programs
  Purdue University

- **Michael J. Siegel**
  Assistant Professor and Director, Admin of Higher Education Program
  Suffolk University

- **Matthew D. Pistilli**
  Assistant Director and Coordinator of Databases and Statistics for Student Access
  Purdue University

- **Staci Hersh**
  Assistant Director, Orientation and Transition Services
  New York University

- **Jennifer L. Stripe**
  Higher Education Consultant
  STRATUS, a division of Heery International
AOFYE Business
Sara Hinkle & Jennifer Keup

Professional Development Call for Participation

There are openings for many great professional development programs. Please encourage colleagues and campus departments to consider an e-learning course or Webinar as part of individual, department, division or campus-wide professional development. A diverse set of offerings are available and affordable <http://www.myacpa.org/pd/pd_index.cfm>.

Announcing the 2007 AOFYE Research Grant Recipient

The Commission is pleased to announce that the 2007 recipient of its research grant is Jennifer Hodges, with her proposal entitled, College students’ reasons to attend college and learning community participation. Ms. Hodges’ research, which is intimately connected with the core areas of the Commission, offers an innovative approach to the topic of learning communities and addresses a gap in the literature and our understanding of the subject. Her findings could potentially be used in the promotion of learning community opportunities, the design of learning community programs, and outcomes assessment of learning community participation, as well as other pedagogical innovations and programmatic initiatives. Ms. Hodges will be formally recognized at the AOFYE Commission General Membership Meeting at the ACPA/NASPA Joint Meeting in Orlando, FLA on Tuesday, April 3, from 2:30-5:00 p.m. in Grand Ballroom Salon 12 - Marriott.

Mark your ACPA/NASPA Personal Calendar for these events to become connected with the AOFYE commission

Monday, April 2 6:30pm-8:00pm
Joint Meeting Showcase/Carnival

Tuesday, April 3 2:30pm-5:00pm
ACPA AOFYE Commission Open Meeting

*This year during our Commission Meeting, we invite you to share your Innovative Practices & Ideas. We will provide a forum for individuals to share anything related to Admissions, Orientation, and First-Year Experience Programs. You may consider highlighting programs, training, recruitment, activities, or research based on your particular area of work and expertise. If you plan to participate in this forum, please feel free to bring copies of materials that can be shared with members of our commission, or just join us for ideas shared by others.