

CareerWatch

Spring 2007

CareerWatch

Inside this issue:

Notes from the Chair 1-2

Graduate Student Perspective of ACPA 2

Convention, Placement and Career Services Committee Report 3-4

Wisdom from the Members of the Commission for Career Development 5

ACPA Commission for Career Development Vision Statement 5

Commission Membership and List Serv 6

Notes from the Chair

Greetings Commission for Career Development!

The 2007 Joint Meeting is behind us, and it was a success. The Commission for Career Development is one of the most active Commissions within ACPA, and the area of career development was well represented at the joint meeting this year.

For your information, 36 career development-related programs were offered over the course of the 3 1/2 day meeting; 84 volunteers worked in Commission-sponsored activities in placement by answering questions at the Questions & Concerns Booth, conducting mock interviews for placement candidates, and/or presenting a PD snapshots workshop; and more than 50 people attended the Commission for Career Development Open Business meeting and provided input on the upcoming year's activities.

The work of the Commission extends far beyond the activity of the annual convention. Commission

members review programs to determine sponsorship at upcoming conventions; contributors write book reviews, or articles about research or best practices for the CareerWatch publication; and a team of people is developing a career planning manual, a publication targeted to student affairs professionals with content on the job search, writing resumes and cover letters, and interviewing. The list-serve is also a way to tap into the work and



ACPA
COMMISSION FOR
Career Development

expertise of the Commission. Consider yourself invited to become more involved with the activities of the Commission! And please extend the invitation to your colleagues as well.

The Commission for Career Development requires active involvement of its members for its success. Thanks to all who participated in activities throughout this past year. I am deeply grateful to the di-

rectorate members who are leading and recruiting members to carry out the important work of our Commission in this 2007-2008 year.

Here are updates on a few items of interest within the Association.

The Commission for Career Development was recognized among all of the ACPA commissions for Excellence in Member Services for its Mock Interview program. This program allows candidates the opportunity to practice their interviewing skills with a career development professional in placement at the convention. Kudos to Directorate members Farouk Dey,

Greg Iaccarino, and John Bradac who are responsible for initiating and coordinating this project. If you enjoy a treasure hunt, you can find a picture of Greg and Farouk accepting the award on the Commission's behalf with ACPA President Jeanne Steffes and ACPA Executive Director Greg Roberts on this webpage: <http://www.myacpa.org/photos/>.

Continued on page 2

Did you know 2005-2014 is the United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development? Sustainable development is "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Find out more about ACPA's involvement with this initiative at <http://www.myacpa.org/task-force/>

[sustainability/primer.cfm](#). Are there activities your institution or your office are doing to promote sustainable development? If so, please share them with the Commission by emailing our list-serve commission6@lyris.acpa.nche.edu.

Enjoy this edition of CareerWatch. Please be in touch with me or with

other directorate members with questions, concerns or ideas related to how the Commission can assist you with your work.

*By: Libby Westley
Chair, Commission for Career Development,
liwestley@ davidson.edu*

Graduate Student Perspective of ACPA

This year's joint NASPA/ACPA conference was nothing short of monumental. Over 9000 attendees, a buzzing placement center, great presentation topics and the 80 degree Florida heat made for a magical five days in beautiful Orlando.

As a graduate student candidate this year, I had the opportunity to partake in various facets of the conference. My primary focus upon arrival was to interview with institutions for openings in career development, as I am very actively seeking jobs outside of the Greater Los Angeles area. On the day of my first interview, I accosted the famed "Lucy Booth" (named after the beloved Shultz's Peanuts comic) for a few pointers. Before I knew it, this table and the individuals behind it would change the whole course of my conference experience.

Hoping simply to get some tips for my interview, I soon found myself walking and talking with John Bradac while he introduced me to such esteemed individuals as Libby Westley, Greg Iaccarino and Paula Quenoy. Needless to say, I got a lot more than I had bargained for and to be completely honest, I was shocked at the kindness bestowed upon me by these seasoned career services professionals. It was this initial encounter that then prompted me to attend the ACPA Career Development Commission Directorate Meeting, during which I got a first-hand glance at the inner-

workings of ACPA in planning for this year's conference.

In the meeting, the various committees reported on their progress during the 2006-07 planning year. As a novice stepping into the world of the Commission, I was absolutely floored by the amount of effort the board dedicates to "examining and addressing the changing and diverse role of

"Organizations like ACPA truly capitalize on pooling brainpower together to continually invest and improve the student affairs realm through proactive measures in learning and growth."

-Yin Lu, UCLA Graduate Student

career services in higher education within a student development framework" (Vision Statement).

From Amy Ites' and Kacee Ferrell's work to improve the distribution method of this very publication, to Michael Cronk's in-depth report on the 2007 Commission Membership Survey, to the impressive compilation of a "Career Planning Guide for Student Affairs Professionals" spear-

headed by Mark Kenyon, the directors' dedication to its vision is clearly evident through both words and actions.

I am very fortunate to have had the chance to sit in on this meeting because it was truly humbling to see the tremendous amount "back-stage" groundwork these individuals do for their constituents, all for the ultimate sake of improving the services we offer to students.

In retrospect, I think I got more out of this conference from my involvement with the Career Development Commission than I could have had I focused all my energy on placement. Through this experience, I felt a major confidence boost and a complimentary change in attitude toward the conference. It also resulted in my volunteering at the Lucy Booth and establishing more relationships with others in the career development field from across the nation.

Organizations like ACPA truly capitalize on pooling brainpower together to continually invest and improve the student affairs realm through proactive measures in learning and growth. As a budding young professional, I cannot wait to get involved in the years to come-- this preview was simply too good to pass up!

*By: Yin Lu
UCLA Graduate Student
NASPA/ACPA Conference Attendee*

Convention Placement and Career Services Committee Report

Lucy Booth

There was an increase of the number of visitors of 20.53% from the previous year. This could be a result of a general increase in the number of attendees due to the joint meeting.

Thanks to all volunteers who did a wonderful job answering questions and providing advice and guidance to candidates. Scheduling two volunteers for each slot helps insure coverage in case of no shows.

Returning volunteers said that candidates asked more relevant questions this year ranging from "how should I inform an employer that I am no longer interested in a position?" to

"what did an employer mean by saying a certain comment?"

Location of Lucy Booth at Placement (facing the entrance to Placement) helped make Booth more visible from a distance as candidates entered Placement.

Mock Interview Program

There was an increase in the number of interviews offered by 85% and consequently, the number of mock interviews utilized increased by 64.29%. However, the usage ratio has decreased by 11.20% from last year.

The first day filled up very quickly and many candidates expressed the need

for more mock interviews on the first day.

The large majority of program participants reported an increase in their confidence about their interviewing skills as a result of participating in the mock interviewing program (average score: 4.42 on a scale of 1 to 5).

All participants would recommend the programs to others (4.83 on a scale of 1 to 5).

All program participants found their mock interviewers to be very friendly, helpful, and professional (4.92 on a scale of 1 to 5).

Continued on page 4

Lucy Booth

	3/31/2007	4/1/2007	4/2/2007	4/3/2007	Total	Change from 2006
Visitors	64	67	39	12	182	+20.53%
%	35%	37%	21%	7%		

Mock Interview Program

	3/31/2007	4/1/2007	4/2/2007	Total	Change from 2006
Offered	9	17	11	37	+85.00%
Utilized	9	10	4	23	+64.29%
Usage Ratio	100%	59%	36%	62%	-11.20%

Convention Placement and Career Services Committee Report, con't

Continued from page 3

PD Snapshots Program

The majority of program participants reported an increase in their confidence about job search in student affairs as a result of participating in the PD Snapshots program (average score: 3.81 on a scale of 1-5).

"Evaluating the Job Offer and Salary Negotiation" was the most popular session at this year's joint meeting, followed by "The Campus Visit".

There was an increase in attendance by 37% from the previous year.

The lowest attendance was on Sunday.

The location was not convenient for candidates and presenters this year. Although the proximity to the placement area was good, program participants complained about difficulties



hearing presenters.

All sessions were posted online and on the joint meeting program. Descriptions of the programs would be helpful next year.

The majority of program attendees were females.

Scheduling hosts for the sessions was very helpful.

There were some complaints about some panelists and their appropriateness for the sessions.

Some participants expressed interest in role play activities.

By: Farouk Day, University of Florida, FaroukDey@crc.ufl.edu & Greg Iaccarino, University of Wisconsin-Madison, gjiacca@wisc.edu

PD Snapshots Program

	3/31/2007	4/1/2007	4/2/2007	4/3/2007	Total	Change from 2006
10:00 AM	NA	2	24	11		
11:00 AM	19	7	32	18		
1:00 PM	NA	7	24	8		
2:00 PM	NA	3	19	10		
3:00 PM	NA	NA	14	NA		
4:00 PM	13	NA	NA	NA		
Total	32	19	113	47	211	+37.01%

Wisdom from the Members of the Commission for Career Development

Members of the Commission for Career Development were asked to share their favorite piece of wisdom they received from the joint conference. Below is some of the advice the members of the Commission shared.

Ben Cudia

University of North Carolina-Charlotte

Always remember the importance of networking in one's career. Through undergraduate and graduate alums, the people you meet and connect with will always be a resource for you as a young professional all the way to an experienced member of career services and student affairs.

Shirley Rowe

University of Texas-San Antonio

Have you ever considered a service

delivery model which students already have access to and are familiar with? That is exactly what North Carolina State University has done and it was the focus of their presentation "WebCT Vista: Adapting a Classroom Tool for Delivering Student Services and Programs". WebCT Vista is an online classroom/learning management tool which includes tools like discussion boards and quizzes as well as space for content. Various student affairs departments are now using this method to get their message to students. This presentation can be accessed at http://www.ncsu.edu/student_affairs/webctvista.

Michael Cronk

Transylvania University

Another year and conference has quickly come and gone. The Member Services Committee is new and improved with Kristin Buchmann from

Florida Gulf Coast University signing on to co-chair the committee! Look for improved offerings this year as the committee works to provide "off-convention" programming and services. For those of you attending other professional conferences (i.e. NACE, NCDA, etc.) we would like to hear from you so that we can "meet-up" at these respective gatherings and share information learned from these conferences.

Additionally, John Bradac from Ithaca College is going to work with us to develop a mentoring programming to reconnect our veteran practitioners with the commission and our new professionals. Look for more on these and other programs this summer. Finally, be sure to look at the commission web page in the coming weeks as we include the results of the recently conducted membership survey. As always, if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact us – this is your commission and we will do all we can to make it better serve your needs!

Commission for Career Development Vision Statement

The Commission for Career Development seeks to examine and address the changing and diverse role of career services in higher education within a student development framework. We work to fulfill this vision by attending to the needs of our constituents; current and potential career development professionals in higher education.

Those needs, as we see them, are:

- **Professional Development and Information Exchange**
- **Knowledge Development Regarding Professional Standards and Issues**
- **Affiliation and Networking**

Renew Your Commission and List-Serv Membership

It's that time of year when many ACPA members renew their membership. **Please note that every time you renew your ACPA membership, you should also renew BOTH your Commission membership AND your list serv registration.** Failure to re-join the Commission may prevent you from voting in elections and receiving important email updates.

Once you renew your ACPA membership, follow the directions below to 1) join the Commission for Career Development and 2) register for the Commission list serv.

1) To join the Commission for Career Development:

Go to <https://members.myacpa.org/Scripts/4Disapi.dll/4DCGI/logon/logonmain.html> and log in using your ACPA user name and password. Once logged in, scroll to the bottom of

the Welcome page to the section titled, "Committees." Here, you may view the list of committees to which you belong and/or join a new committee by clicking the "list of committees" link. Scroll down to find the Commission for Career Development and click the link to join.

2) To register for the Commission for Career Development list-serv:

Go to <https://members.myacpa.org/Scripts/4Disapi.dll/4DCGI/person/Listserv.html> and log in using your ACPA user name and password. Once logged in, type your email address in the space next to the Commission for Career Development and select whether you wish to receive messages as they are sent, or in digest style, where messages will be bundled and emailed to you once weekly. Please contact Jennifer Browning at jbrowning@rollins.edu if

you have any questions about joining the list serv.

The Online Career Development committee of the Commission for Career Development is in the process of developing regional networks so that the information sharing doesn't end after Convention is over. Our web site is also being grown to include resource sharing opportunities and benchmarking data. You can visit the Commission website at <http://myacpa.org/comm/careerdev>.

If you have suggestions of material to include on the webpage, contact Jennifer Browning at jbrowning@rollins.edu or Andrea Dine at ADine@wheelock.edu.

By: Jennifer Browning, Directorate Member and Co-Chair of Online Career Development Committee, jbrowning@rollins.edu

CareerWatch

INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH THE CAREERWATCH NEWSLETTER?

We are always looking for help editing stories, design and lay-out, and fresh ideas of how to identify more writers!

If you are interested, please contact:

Kacee Ferrell, ferrellk@ipfw.edu or
Amy Iles, ami22@georgetown.edu