



ACPA
COMMISSION FOR
**Commuter
Students and
Adult Learners**



March 2008 eNewsletter

Chair's Welcome

Heather Shea Gasser
The University of Idaho
Chair, Commission for Commuter Students & Adult Learners

Greetings Colleagues! Welcome to the Pre-Convention edition of the Commission for Commuters and Adult Learners eNewsletter. It is our hope that this issue will once again spark your passion for serving the commuter and adult learner student populations on your campus. From "Hot Topics" to "Educating Students" and "Best Practices" you will find a variety of articles that should get you thinking!

As you begin preparing for the trip to Atlanta for the Annual ACPA Convention, start planning now to attend a Commission-sponsored Educational Session, our Roundtable or our Business Meeting/Awards Ceremony. Please see the section later in this newsletter that describes our convention events.

Also, I want to highlight an important reminder: **In an effort to support sustainability and reduce waste, convention bags will not be given to registrants this year. Bring and reuse a convention bag you already have.**

Finally, I'd like to thank Dana McKoy, the editor of the Commission E-News for the past two years. Dana has established a strong publication full of beneficial information for professionals serving commuters and adult learners. In addition, she has held all of us who contribute to high standards and strict deadlines! We will miss her as she moves on to work outside of Student Affairs. Congratulations Dana!

Enjoy reading!
Heather Shea Gasser
Chair, Commission for Commuter Students and Adult Learners

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW COMMISSION CHAIR!

We are pleased to announce that Leslie Perkins has been selected as the incoming chair of the Commission for Commuter Students and Adult Learners! Leslie hails from The Art Institute of Washington in Arlington, Virginia where she serves as the Director of Student Development. As a current/outgoing Directorate member for the Commission, we are fortunate to have her stay on as Chair for the next two years! Please join us in congratulating and welcoming Leslie as she takes over officially at the Commission Business Meeting on Tuesday, April 1st!

How to Join the Commission for Commuter Students & Adult Learners

In order for you to officially “join” our commission, you need to login to the ACPA website (www.myacpa.org) and on the membership homepage, scroll down to the area called “committees.” Once you click on the link, you will be taken to a list of all the various committees / commissions / groups in ACPA. Find and click on Commission for Commuter Students and Adult Learners and then on the page that describes our commission, click “Join this Committee” link at the top of the screen.

Benefits of Membership

Joining the commission is an excellent way to begin making connections with others who work within commuter student and adult learner services. Joining the commission means that you will be invited to participate in commission activities, like presenting sponsored programs, judging awards, and nominating/ electing new directorate members. On occasion, “commission members-only email blasts” will be sent. These will be used only for important commission announcements like calls for programs, award nominations, and elections.

Commission Listserv

If you are interested in engaging in dialogue with other commission members about commuter and adult student issues, please join the Commission listserv. In addition to joining the Commission, while you are on the www.myacpa.org webpage, also click on the Membership menu on the left side and then click “ACPA listservs.” Once at this screen you can login and join our Commission for Commuters & Adult Learners listserv. Currently, just joining the commission (as described above) does not automatically put you on the commission listserv. You can customize how you want commission listserv messages to arrive (digest form daily or even weekly).

Contact Us!

www.myacpa.org/comm/commuter/

Take Public Transit in Atlanta

In an effort to assist convention goers, the Sustainability Task Force within the Commission for Commuter Students and Adult Learners offers the following tips:

- MARTA is the public transit system in Atlanta and carries 98% of all transit riders in the Atlanta region. It also helps alleviate traffic congestion, which is the number one barrier to economic growth in
- You can visit many of the tourist attractions/popular destinations and enjoy dining in the Greater Atlanta area by riding the MARTA.
- MARTA has a rail station inside Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and offers the quickest and most inexpensive way to get to downtown Atlanta's hotels. Both main conference hotels, Marriott Marquis and Hyatt Regency, are closest to the Peachtree Center rail station of the MARTA. Not staying at the main hotels? If so, there are still plenty of hotels that are accessible via the MARTA.
- MARTA is \$1.75 for a one-way fare. There is also a multi-day visitor pass (1-4 days) for unlimited rides for \$8-12.
- For more information on the MARTA, go to www.itsmarta.com or ask for assistance at the Hospitality desk at the conference.

ACPA Annual Convention Commission Meetings & Sponsored Programs

Commission Meetings

Please join us for the following Commission-sponsored events at the ACPA Annual Convention in Atlanta. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Monday, March 31, 2008

Commuter and Adult Learner Roundtable Discussion

Monday, March 31, 5:45 – 6:45 PM

Location: *Hyatt Regency, Auburn*

The Commission for Commuter Students and Adult Learners, in conjunction with the National Clearinghouse for Commuter Programs, sponsors a roundtable discussion each year to explore issues facing commuter students and adult learners and create a networking opportunity for those who work with these important populations.

Convention Showcase

Monday, March 31, 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Location: *Hyatt Regency, Centennial Ballroom*

Stop by our table to learn more about the Commission for Commuter Students and Adult Learners! It's March Madness! Wear your college or athletic colors and join your colleagues as ACPA's commissions, standing committees, and state/international divisions help you discover the many opportunities for involvement and professional development in the association. We welcome the opportunity to share our ongoing work and know we can be energized by your participation. Refreshments and cash bar will be available.

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Commission & NCCP Awards Ceremony

Sunday, March 30, 2:30 – 3:30 PM

Location: *Hyatt Regency, Roswell*

We will be recognizing our 2008 Commission Award winners at this Meeting.

Commission Open Business Meeting

Sunday, March 30, 3:30 – 5:00 PM

Location: *Hyatt Regency, Roswell*

Please stop by our Open Business Meeting to learn more about the Commission for Commuter Students & Adult Learners, how to become actively involved in the Commission, meet other professionals who work with these student populations, and discuss issues in the field and share resources.

Commission Social/Dinner

Sunday, March 30, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Location: *Max Lager's American Brewery*

Join us for the Commission's Social/Dinner at Max Lager's American Brewery on Tuesday, April 1 at 7 p.m. It's just two blocks from the Hyatt Regency. **To RSVP prior to the conference**, contact Jessica Grace at jessica.grace@drexel.edu. The website for Max Lager's is <http://maxlagers.com>.

Commission Sponsored Programs

Each year, the ACPA commissions sponsor a select group of conference programs that represent their functional areas. The Commission for Commuter Students & Adult Learners is proud to sponsor six exciting programs at the 2008 ACPA Annual Convention. Here is the URL to view these programs online: <http://cdms.myacpa.org/convention/> Click on “program type” and then select “Commission for Commuter Students & Adult Learners” from the pull down menu.

Baby Blues: Advancing Inclusion of Students with Children on Campus

Coordinating Presenter: Heather S. Gasser

Monday, March 31: 10:15 AM – 11:30 AM

Marriott Marquis, International 9

With significant attention paid toward parents of the traditional-age students on our campuses (including parents associations, newsletters, parent’s weekend), little has been done to make our campuses friendlier to students who are parents themselves. This presentation will explore the many needs of student parents on campus and demonstrate the possible opportunities to improve the campus climate through services and programs for this overlooked population. Findings from a study of students with children will also be presented.

New Student Orientation and Adult Learners: Making Content Relevant

Coordinating Presenter: Heather N Werckle

Monday, March 31: 11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

Marriott Marquis, International 1

This program will address research supporting the retention and academic success of students related to attending new student orientation, the typical content included in a new student orientation, and how this content does not reach or apply to adult learners. Qualitative research with adult learners on what they desire in a new student orientation will be included, as well as a sample format and programming content for a new student orientation designed for adult learners.

Beyond Parking: Serving Commuter Students at a Large, Urban University

Coordinating Presenter: Maureen D Sheridan

Monday, March 31: 1:15 PM – 2:30 PM

Marriott Marquis, L405 & L406

Fostering meaningful connections for commuter students at large, urban institutions can be particularly challenging for student affairs professionals. This presentation will examine these challenges and demonstrate how Commuter Student Services at New York University is utilizing a holistic model addressing them.

More Than a Place to Park: Successful Commuter Student Programs

Coordinating Presenter: Jennifer Bonnett

Monday, March 31: 4:15 PM – 5:30 PM

Hyatt Regency, Hanover Hall D

This program will be an interactive presentation consisting of a five-minute introduction from the Director of the NCCP; three 15-20 minute presentations of exemplary programs, including sustainable practices from the Commission Task Force on Sustainability, research on adult student parents by Dr. Carolyn Palmer of Bowling Green State University, and graduate student programming from Dana McKoy, Coordinator of Commuter & Non-Traditional Student Services at UNC-Wilmington; and 15-20 minutes for questions and critique of programs and ideas presented.

Engaging Online Students Through Peer Mentorship

Coordinating Presenter: Carrie Ginetto

Tuesday, April 1: 11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

Hyatt Regency, Hanover Hall D

Peer Mentorship is not a new concept in Higher Education, but how can we deliver these services in a non-traditional setting? Come learn how Berkeley College Online created a Peer Mentorship designed to provide leadership opportunities to continuing students, while focusing on new student retention and success ... all online! This presentation will include all the "nuts and bolts" of our program, including our challenges. This model can also be applied to evening/weekend students, as well as traditional students.

Including Adult Learners: Exploring the Nontraditional Student Experience

Coordinating Presenter: Lisa K Miller

Wednesday, April 2: 8:00 AM – 9:15 AM

Marriott Marquis, International 8

Universities nationwide are experiencing increased enrollments of non-traditional students, or adult learners, and projections indicate that this number will continue to rise. This presentation will focus on meeting the academic and service needs of the nontraditional student in a university that primarily recruits and serves traditionally-aged students. Participants will engage with tangible examples of evaluating campus services and advocating for student needs, as well as interact with fellow practitioners to discuss effective practices.

Other Commuter & Adult Learner Programs

We also want to highlight all of the other programs that will be presented at the Convention that address the needs and concerns of Commuter students and Adult Learners. Here is the URL to view these programs online: <http://cdms.myacpa.org/convention/> Click on "By keywords" and then select "Commuter Students & Adult Learners" from the pull down menu.

Structured Groups for Non-Traditional Students (Pre-Convention Workshop)

Sunday, March 30, 2008

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Hyatt Regency, Hanover Hall D

This program focuses on training in the use of structured groups for non-traditional college students. Based on the non-cognitive model (Sedlacek, 2004), the author presents an empirically proven intervention model, adopting the non-cognitive strategies in a structured group approach for first-year college students. This presentation includes the intervention model, the group approach, group process and skills, evaluation and research, and applications. Participants will receive a CD-ROM including the training manual, the group activities, evaluation tools, and research data.

Coordinating Presenter: S. Raymond Ting

CEU Credit: 6

College at My (Golden) Age? Yes!

Monday, March 31, 2008

10:15 AM - 11:30 AM

Marriott Marquis, International B

This session will focus on findings from a study of campus programs that serve retirees and other older adult students. Characteristics of lifelong learning institutes (LLIs) at six 2-year and two 4-year colleges will be described, and insights gained from students ranging in age from 60 to over 100 will be shared. Participants will be encouraged to

contribute to discussions of older adult students and the effects that taking college classes “at their age” can have on their lives.

Coordinating Presenter: Carolyn Palmer

ExCEL: A First-Year Program for Non-Traditional Students

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM

Marriott Marquis, International 2

The first year in college is a time of adjustment and turmoil (Chickering & Reisser, 1993; Erikson, 1997). The first-year experience in colleges has become an important topic in research and professional practice. Non-cognitive strategies are applied in the empirically-proven ExCEL program for first year students, particularly non-traditional students, and the academically underprepared or at-risk. The presentation introduces this group approach program to professionals who work with first-year university students in first-year programs, orientation, academic advising, and counseling centers.

Coordinating Presenter: S. Raymond Ting

CEU Credit: 1

Identity and Intimacy Issues Among Adult Adoptees: Implications for Practice

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

1:15 PM - 2:30 PM

Marriott Marquis, M106 & M107

Unresolved identity and intimacy issues are common among adults who were adopted, especially when they reach milestone events or search for birth parents. Since adoption affects approximately 60% of the population of the US, it is likely to be a key issue for many traditional and non-traditional college students. This program presents the results of a research project on the development of identity and intimacy among adult adoptees and provides recommendations for counseling and student affairs practice.

Coordinating Presenter: Frances C Pearson

Launching Evening and Weekend Programs on a Non-Traditional Commuter Campus

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

4:15 PM - 5:30 PM

Marriott Marquis, A704

Launching evening and weekend programs on a non-traditional, commuter campus is a difficult and daunting task. However, you can produce incredible events if you are aware of the obstacles that may stand in your way of success. Come learn about one metropolitan university’s challenges and triumphs in creating evening and weekend programs on a non-traditional, commuter campus. Participants are invited to share their experiences with evening and weekend programs, so we may all learn from each other.

Coordinating Presenter: Donovan Nichols

Additional Convention Events

Convention Opening

Sunday, March 30, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Location: *Hyatt Regency, Centennial Ballroom*

Join in the celebration of the profession at the opening of the convention. **Nikki Giovanni** world-renowned poet, writer, commentator, activist, and educator is our speaker. As one of the most widely-read American poets, her focus is on the individual, specifically, on the power one has to make a difference in oneself, and thus, in the lives of others. The **Beacon Dance Company**, based locally in Decatur, Georgia, will perform *1906/2006/2106*, an engaging new two-section dance-theatre piece drawing inspiration from one of Atlanta's most notorious historical events. This thrilling new work reflects the strength, passion and tenacity of an oppressed group reaching for justice and their share of the American dream. Beacon Dance will wind up the opening session with "Teaching you/Teaching me", a celebration of ACPA's commitment to our work with students in higher education. During this interactive performance piece, the performers and Next Generation will lead us to the opening reception.

Opening Reception

Sunday, March 30, 8:00 – 10:00 PM

Location: *Marriott Hotel, International Level*

Reconnect with friends and colleagues and enjoy fine Atlanta cuisine! The Standing Committee for Women and the Standing Committee on Multicultural Affairs will be celebrating their anniversaries, with a special tribute to commemorate their accomplishments. Take a souvenir home by stopping by the tattoo artist and photo button booths.

Cultural Fest – 40th Anniversary Celebrations

Tuesday, April 1, 8:00 – 11:00 PM

Location: *Hyatt Regency, Roswell*

Join the Standing Committee for Multicultural Affairs as they conclude the celebration of their 40th Anniversary and the many cultures represented at ACPA. The Plainsmen, a Native American dance troupe will open the festival with dancing and traditional songs of the southern plains, followed by lively performances by local talent and your ACPA colleagues as they share their heritage through the performing and visual arts.

Earth Hour

On **Saturday March 29th from 8pm – 9pm**, cities, organizations and individuals are being asked to turn off their lights to show the impact it can have on global consumption. This is the 2nd year for the Earth Hour event – the first was held in Sydney, Australia on March 31, 2007. "On March 31, 2007, 2.2 million people and 2100 Sydney businesses turned off their lights for one hour - Earth Hour. This massive collective effort reduced Sydney's energy consumption by 10.2% for one hour, which is the equivalent effect of taking 48,000 cars off the road for one hour."

This is an ideal event to build programming around for our commuter students and adult learners. Here is a link to the official site where you can get more information:

<http://www.earthhourus.org/>.