



Chair's Welcome

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

Greetings! I am so pleased to invite you to read this pre-convention edition of the Commission for Commuters & Adult Learner's eNewsletter. This edition is full of all of the information you need to know about our Commission's work and our presence at the ACPA/NASPA Joint Meeting.

As many of us are busy preparing for the trip to Orlando at the end of the month, I want to put out a special invitation to our **Commission Business Meeting, Awards Ceremony & Social**. We will be conducting our Commission Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, April 3rd from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the Marriott Crystal Ballroom, Salon A. This meeting will be a time to connect with other commuter professionals, hear about the "current state of commuter students" (via John Garland and the National Clearinghouse for Commuter Programs), as well as recognize those individuals and programs who have been inclusive of commuters and adult learners with our Commission Awards. That evening, anyone from the commission is invited to join members of the directorate for dinner at our annual Commission Social. We will be meeting in the lobby of the Gaylord to travel to an off-site location for dinner. This social, held for the first time in Indianapolis, promises to be a great time!

I look forward to meeting everyone in Orlando and wish you all safe travels!

ACPA/NASPA Joint Meeting Events & Sponsored Programs

Joint Meeting Events

Please join us for the following Commission-sponsored events at the ACPA/NASPA Joint Meeting in Orlando:

2007 Joint Meeting Showcase

Monday, April 2, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Marriott Crystal & Grand Ballrooms

Stop by our table to learn more about the Commission for Commuters & Adult Learners as well as to enter to win an iPod Shuffle!

ACPA Commission for Commuters & Adult Learners Business Meeting & Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, April 3, 2:30 - 5:00 pm

Marriott Crystal Ballroom, Salon A

Please stop by our Business Meeting to learn more about the Commission for Commuter Students & Adult Learners, meet other professionals who work with these student populations, and discuss issues in the field and share resources. We will also be recognizing our 2007 Commission Award winners at this meeting.

Joint Meeting Events, continued

Commuter and Adult Learner Roundtable

Tuesday, April 3 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Osceola Ballroom 6 - Gaylord

The Commission for Commuter Students and Adult Learners sponsors a roundtable discussion each year to explore issues facing commuters and adult learners, and create a networking opportunity for those who work with these important populations. Join Commission member **John Garland**, Director of the National Clearinghouse for Commuter Programs, for some great discussion!

ACPA Commission for Commuter Students & Adult Learners Social

Tuesday, April 3, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Meet in the Gaylord Lobby

A casual opportunity to socialize with others involved in the Commission for Commuters & Adult Learners; we will be going off-site to a nearby restaurant for dinner.

Sponsored Programs

Each year, the ACPA commissions sponsor a select group conference programs that represent their functional areas. The Commission for Commuters & Adult Learners is proud to sponsor three exciting programs at the 2007 Joint Meeting:

Creating Community: Fostering Learning Communities for Commuter & Transfer Students

Coordinating Presenter: Joseph Connell

Monday, April 2 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

Captiva 1/2 - Gaylord

Learning Communities have emerged as a central factor to student success; however, reaching students furthest from the institution's center has proved more challenging. To increase commuter and transfer student success and involvement on a primarily residential campus, Marist College created several learning communities in the 2005-2006 Academic Year. This program highlights the development of these communities, the students' achieved outcomes, and offers participants strategies to utilize on their campuses.

More Than a Place to Park: Successful Programs for Commuter Students

Coordinating Presenter: John Garland

Monday, April 2 1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

LA - Marriott

Students living off-campus comprise over 80% of students enrolled on our campuses nationwide. Attention to this important population of our campus community is often overlooked. This presentation will focus on services and programming endeavors from a variety of institutions from around the country. Several professionals will share details of successful programs from their own campuses and participants will be able to engage in dialogue with the panel and others on the college experiences of commuter students.

Baby Blues: Our Responsibility for Serving Student Parents

Coordinating Presenter: Heather Gasser

Tuesday, April 3 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM

Orange Blossom Ballroom - Gaylord

With significant attention paid toward parents of the traditional-age students on our campuses (including parents associations, newsletters, parents' weekend), little has been done to make our campuses more friendly to students who are parents themselves. This presentation will explore the many needs of student parents on campus and demonstrate through one campus's collaborative response, the possible opportunities to improve the campus climate through services and programs for this overlooked population. Note: this presentation addresses alternatives to building a child care center.

Other Commuter, Adult Learner & Transfer Student Oriented Programs

Brett J. Mongeon

University of New Hampshire

Below please find a sample of some other programs of interest for our commission members. Please visit the **full** schedule of programs to verify rooms and locations, as these sometimes change:

<http://www.2007jointmeeting.org/schedule/sch.cfm>. To build your own customized itinerary for the ACPA/NASPA meeting, visit <http://www.2007jointmeeting.org/schedule/user/login/index.cfm>:

Look Who's Coming to Community Colleges: Trends and Implications of Serving the High Achieving Student

Coordinating Presenter: Sheryl Otto

Monday, April 2 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM

Osceola Ballroom 5 - Gaylord

Time Magazine's recent cover story, "Who Needs Harvard?" examines how the rules of undergraduate admission are changing. The best and brightest are no longer looking exclusively at the Ivies. High achieving students are searching to find an institution that provides the best fit for them based on quality of education, cost, class size and opportunities for involvement. As community colleges, are we sufficiently poised to attract and meet the needs of these students? Participate in a discussion of programs and services at community colleges designed especially for the academically talented student.

Transfer Student Adjustment: Needs and Recommendations

Coordinating Presenter: Randy Mitchell

Monday, April 2 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM

Sun Ballroom 2 – Gaylord

This presentation summarizes the results of a study to identify academic, psychological, and social adjustment needs following transfer to James Madison University (JMU). JMU had limited information on transfer adjustment, and this information was needed to make recommendations for development of a transfer support center. Analysis of the data revealed fourteen themes of transfer needs related to adjustment. These themes indicated that transfer students need attention from the institution regarding information, involvement, support, acknowledgement, and competencies.

Pathway for Underrepresented Transfer Students: Findings, Exemplary Practices, and Successful Strategies

Coordinating Presenter: Frankie Santos Laanan

Monday, April 2 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM

Sanibel 2&3 - Gaylord

While research on women and minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) is extensive, there is a dearth of studies that examine the influences of the student and academic support services programs on academic and career aspirations among women and minorities in STEM fields. This program presents the findings from empirical research and voices among students to identify exemplary practices and implications for future program improvement and professional development.

Adult Women Learners Revisited: Lessons from an International Perspective

Coordinating Presenter: Angela Gordon Stair

Monday, April 2 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

Destin 1/2 - Gaylord

Adult learners have changed the face of higher education throughout the world. Women 25 years and older are now a significant part of the tertiary level landscape. Much research has been done on this phenomenon in developed countries but very little in developing countries. This presentation compares the motives and challenges of women adult learners in a developing country with their sisters in developed countries, as well as the implications for universities.

Other Commuter, Adult Learner & Transfer Student Oriented Programs, continued

Shaping the Neighborhoods..... Developing Mutual Relationships

Coordinating Presenter: Anthony Skevakis

Monday, April 2 1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

Sanibel 2&3 - Gaylord

Institutions often struggle with the complexities of neighborhood relationships. As complaints about off campus student behavior rise, universities are being asked to address these issues and balances the needs of the university and neighborhoods can at times be challenging. The University of Arizona has taken a unique approach in conducting neighborhood and student polls that led to the creation of a video which engages discussion with students and neighbors regarding off campus behavior.

When Non-Traditional Age Women Invest in both Education and Themselves: A Qualitative Study

Coordinating Presenter: Annemarie Vaccaro

Monday, April 2 1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

Sun Ballroom A - Gaylord

How do you know if a student is engaged? A theme in higher education literature is that older, commuter students are less engaged than their traditional counterparts. In this session we will talk about what engagement means for our students. Findings from a qualitative study of older women students at a night and weekend college will be shared along with a new theory of self-investment.

Promoting Transfer Student Success: Partnerships and Practices from Two-Year and Four-Year Colleges in Oregon, Illinois and Indiana

Coordinating Presenter: Sheryl Otto

Monday, April 2 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Osceola Ballroom 2 - Gaylord

Transfer student enrollment patterns are becoming increasingly complex. These students accelerate, reverse and swirl sometimes leaving us wondering how best to facilitate their success. Participants will learn about effective partnerships and other approaches being used by two and four-year colleges and universities in Oregon, Illinois and Indiana to address the needs of today's transfer students.

Roundtable for Community College SSAOs

Coordinating Presenter: Charlene Dukes

Monday, April 2 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Naples 2 - Gaylord

SSAOs from two-year and community colleges and will examine vital campus issues and share insights during this informal and highly interactive discussion. The topics generated will be used to inform NASPA about the current issues and trends influencing the roles and responsibilities and SSAOs at two-year and community colleges today.

An Evolving Paradigm: Leadership Development for Students of Urban and Commuter Institutions

Coordinating Presenter: Kelly Jo Karnes

Tuesday, April 3 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

Grand Ballroom Salon 7A - Marriott

Leadership development and education have become staples of higher education institutions. Unfortunately, students at urban institutions with primarily commuter populations have been excluded from these impactful programs. Two urban universities have approached this issue through an emphasis on service learning and the creation of freshman learning communities that target these students prior to their arrival on campus.

Other Commuter, Adult Learner & Transfer Student Oriented Programs, continued

Understanding and Supporting the Transfer Transition

Coordinating Presenter: Jennifer Stripe

Tuesday, April 3 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

Osceola Ballroom 2 - Gaylord

The representation of transfers among new college students has risen dramatically. However, neither sufficient data on their challenges nor substantial programmatic efforts to meet their needs exists. This session will share empirical data on UCLA's transfer population as captured by the Transfer Student Survey. Also, it will highlight the content and outcomes of "Life Skills for College Women & Men," an academic course that provides tools for academic success and stress management as well as support for developmental change.

Commuter Programs and the Council for the Advancement of Standards (CAS): Applying the Newly Released Standards and Learning Outcomes to Practice

Coordinating Presenter: John Garland

Tuesday, April 3 1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

Denver - Marriott

This year the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS) released its newest version of standards for commuter and off-campus living programs. In addition, CAS also released its first edition of Frameworks for Assessing Learning and Development Outcomes. This session will focus on effective ways to apply the new CAS Standards and develop meaningful learning outcomes for commuter programs.

Community College Students: Coming of Age While Living at Home

Coordinating Presenter: Karen Pettus

Tuesday, April 3 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Denver - Marriott

Students who live at home while pursuing their college education often find that parents continue to monitor their activities. For them, college life may be little more than an extension of their high school years with few opportunities to experiment with being an adult. This presentation reports the findings of a study on community college student adjustment and discusses the differences by demographic factor. The information provided will help college administrators identify ways to support parents and students in college.

Commission Membership Assessment

Heather Shea Gasser

The University of Arizona

On Thursday, March 8th, you all received an invitation to participate in our Commission Member Assessment. At the printing of this newsletter, over 40 of you have responded and completed the online survey! Thank you! If you have not yet responded, please visit the link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=715222694819>

We will be releasing preliminary results of this assessment at our Commission's Business Meeting on April 3rd! It is our hope that this survey will guide us as we plan for the future of the commission as well as inform our practice as student affairs professional serving commuters and adult learners on our respective campuses.

“KnowHow2Go” Campaign Launch

Leslie L. Perkins
Art Institute of Washington

Did you know that only 9% of students from low-income families complete college by age 24 as compared to 75% of students from high-income families? This startling statistic from the June 2005 Postsecondary Education Opportunity is the rationale for the launch of a new campaign focused on raising the awareness of low-income students about the steps to access getting to college.

The multi-media ad campaign titled KnowHow2Go, is a partnership between the Lumina Foundation and the American Council on Education. This innovative campaign has two essential goals—to motivate low-income students to make their dreams of going to college a reality and to raise awareness about the needed steps to prepare for college. KnowHow2Go features an interactive website, print and outdoor advertising, and television and radio PSA’s. In addition, parents and students can access a toll free number (800-433-3243) to the U.S. Department of Education to request an informational brochure that contains tips on preparing for college. For more details, visit www.KnowHow2Go.org.

How to Join the Commission for Commuter Students and 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 member home page, scroll down to the area called “committees.” Once you click on the link, you will be taken to a list of all of the various committees/commissions/groups in ACPA. Find and click on Commission for Commuter Students and Adult Learners and then on the page that tells our description, 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 with commuter students and adult learners. 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/



Directorate Chair:
Heather Shea Gasser
The University of Arizona
PO Box 210021
Tucson, AZ 85721-0021
(520) 621-1094
gasser@email.arizona.edu