MARCH 2010

NASPA REGION V NEWS

To contribute to future NASPA NEWS contact Wendy Endress

Region V History

The national conference theme inspired a request for comments from former Region V Vice Presidents. Each month a former VP is featured. This month read Mike Segawa’s, (2002-05) letter to the Region on page 2.

ACCESS & AFFORDABILITY: A PUBLIC POLICY ISSUE FOR NASPA

The NASPA Center for Public Policy is alive and well; you had only to attend the division’s sessions at the conference in Chicago, listen to the keynote speakers’ comments, or engage in the hallway discussions to know that there are public policy issues on the minds of NASPA’s members (and public policy implications for our campuses).

As most of you know, the Higher Education Opportunity Act requires colleges and universities to share information with the public about tuition increases and textbooks costs, reduce the achievement and access gap, and enhance efficiency and effectiveness of financial aid programs.

Continued discussions about access and affordability have led a group of states to study the impact of rising costs and reduced aid on low-income students. When they looked at financially independent under Continued on page 3

BUDGET CRISES IMPACT ON STAFF MORALE

Like many other states, Nevada is facing a severe budget shortfall. This is not new and this is not a surprise; there have been budget cuts the last several years and predictions of more budget issues in the future.

What has been a surprise is the sense of solidarity that arose prior to the legislative session. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the community rallied together in an effort to save higher education. A face book page, “Save UNLV” has almost 3000 fans and several hundred students participated in a walkout. The cabinet, faculty senate, faculty alliance, professional staff council, classified staff council, student government, graduate and professional student association, athletic associations, and the alumni association all Con’t p. 3

WEARING MANY HATS IN PARENT RELATIONS

I am at work early to plow through email to be ready for the day, a common experience for those of you skimming this newsletter as you do many other things. Most of us wear more than one hat, and the great majority of us actually wear many hats. I work in Alumni and Parent Relations, and it’s a constant game of

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SSAO RETREAT
June 23-25
Portland, OR

KC KORNER

The AFLV West Fraternal Leadership Conference is the oldest of the regional conferences and has met regularly since its establishment in 1948. The Leadership Conference offers five nationally recognized and highly sought after keynote speakers, six professional and very popular nationally known featured speakers, 60 educational sessions, an awards and assessment program, pre-conference workshops, targeted institutes, and an unprecedented opportunity to network with fellow fraternity/sorority leaders. This year’s conference will take place April 8-11, 2010 at the beautiful Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa in California. This year the conference will once again be held in conjunction with the National Cultural Greek Leadership Conference. Specifically geared to provide a forum for multicultural fraternity/sorority members to network and dialogue on topics that impact them, this national event is sure to educate, develop, and unify the members of campus fraternity/sorority communities.

Submitted by Moe Stephens, Region V Fraternity & Sorority Affairs KC Representative and Assistant Director of Student Activities at University of Puget Sound.
It hardly seems possible that it has been 27 years since I first became a part of Region V. As I reflected on that time I was tempted to talk about numbers: membership size, budget amounts, conference attendance, etc. All of those figures have dramatically increased over the last couple of decades but, really, that isn’t the highlight of our recent history.

As I traveled to each of the other regions this year as NASPA President, I found myself repeatedly sharing the mantra that NASPA is about the relationships. So I figured I should heed those words and speak about the people who have been instrumental in the NASPA I have come to value and serve.

Some of these friends are no longer with us; such as Dick Stenard and Margie Van Vooren yet I see their spirit reflected in what we continue to do to support each other, find humor in some of the most bizarre circumstances, and to be humble about our accomplishments.

Some have been with me for this entire Region V journey. Jeremy Stringer was the first to invite me to participate in Region V through, of all things, a conference planning team. Who could have predicted that simple invitation would lead to my involvement in at least seven other NASPA regional and national conferences? Jeremy told me I really needed to meet a woman by the name of Shannon Ellis. How right he was. Shannon may be the single person most responsible for me serving as NASPA President. Shannon’s presence in my career led me to Art Costantino. I worked for Art for nine years and he was responsible for trying to keep Shannon and me in line! No easy task but then Art is the master of finesseing the “no easy task.” Watching his grace under fire and his commitment to student learning and social justice continue to be a role model for my work.

How long I could go on like this. Art leads me to think of Barb Snyder, his predecessor as RVP and a colleague who may be the most effective large school SSAO I know. Barb reminds me of Deneece Huftalin and Les Cook, two of my most favorite Region V partners in crime. And Les leads me to Jeannie Melsač-Tracey, the glue of this region for the last few years. Jeannie and the glue she represents reminds me of Anna Carey, the epitome of a NASPA volunteer, always willing to contribute in whatever way is needed. Anna calls to mind Larry Roper, who seems to be everywhere and anywhere on behalf of our profession. I know of no more talented and ethical student affairs practitioner.

You get the picture. Our connections in this region run deep and wide and provide us with much of the sustenance we need for running this marathon we call student affairs work. It is never about our titles, the leadership positions we are elected or appointed to, the type of institution from which we hail, or career ambition. In the end, it is truly about the people who touch our lives and care for us as professionals and persons. This is what Region V has afforded me and it is a gift I can only partially repay by passing it along to others. Please consider this column one small way of doing that.

Mike Segawa
Region V Vice President from 2002-2005 and currently Vice President for Student Affairs at the University of Puget Sound.
ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY continued from page 1

graduates, they learned that of those students in the bottom 20th percentile based on expected family contribution (meaning the poorest 20% of that group), 97% of the students at 4-year colleges and 95% of those at 2-year colleges still had “unmet need” after receiving their available grant aid. I wonder if our members and our family members and neighbors understand that.

Despite all of our efforts to enhance access to higher education among lower-income students (and I believe widely-held perceptions that we have done so), we haven’t closed the gap in terms of degree-attainment based on income. In 1975, 7% of low-income, young adults attained a bachelor’s degree; in 2007, that figure had increased to 10%. In contrast, in 1975, 38% of high-income, young adults attained a bachelor’s degree. Today 76% of that group achieves a degree.

What does this all mean? As student affairs practitioners, we need to be armed with data (and a good understanding of those data) during campus budget discussions. We need to consider the implications of tuition increases, new fees, and textbook costs on all of our students—but particularly on the low-income, first-generation, and/or under-represented students on our campuses. We need to understand the access and affordability issues so that we can engage effectively in conversations with institutional leaders, state representatives, and congressional delegations. We need to understand how legislation that affects higher education is (or isn’t) moving forward. Most important, once we have informed ourselves, we need to advocate that decisions be made based on what is best for our students and their families.

There’s good news in all of this; your NASPA Public Policy website contains information from the conference sessions, from the consortium on government relations, and from a variety of national sources. Your Public Policy Division representatives can and will serve as a resource for you.

Submitted by Rebecca Mills, Region V Public Policy Coordinator and Dean of Students at Touro University-Nevada.

BUDGET CRISES continued from p. 1

mobilized at an unprecedented level and with a common goal. The in-boxes of Nevada legislators must have been overflowing.

The legislative session is over and while the outcome for higher education is not good, it is not as bad as proposed.

And now? The ink is just starting to dry on the recently approved State of Nevada budget and already the united front is disintegrating into self preservation. With multiple rounds of budget cuts in our recent history, Nevada institutions have already exhausted less painful budget reduction strategies including "tightening the belt" on operating budgets, staff furloughs, and hiring freezes. The next step involves vertical cuts of academic and non-academic programs. Meaning some staff and non-tenured faculty will lose their jobs, and some students may have limited time to complete their desired degree program.

In the absence of answers, rumors abound. Faculty, staff, and students alike are asking "how will this affect me?" With the uncertainty comes anxiety.

And yet, the daily work of the institution goes on. The challenge will be to continue to focus on our core purpose. The hope is that the strength of our community will see us through these crises.

Submitted by Sunny Gittens, Nevada State Coordinator and Director for Campus Life Assessment at UNLV.

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reprioritizing. We are all busy multi-taskers, who are trying to do our very best.

I was asked to write a contribution focusing on a central trend. What could be more central than the juggling game of being an administrator? Those of us steering parent-relations programs work quite hard to make sure that parents have a positive experience with every point of contact. Not an easy task, but one that generates much reward. So the trend that I point to is parent relations itself, as a new and exciting field, with much opportunity for growth.

Speaking of things to do, I hope I saw many of you at the annual conference parent-relations sessions. I was the one wearing many hats.

Submitted by Mela Kunitz, Region V Parent and Family Relations KC Representative and Assistant Director, Alumni & Parent Relations at Reed College.
NASPA’s Campaign to Stem Societal Violence

During the first full week of April, campuses across the country -- in partnership with communities and local schools -- will speak out, engage in dialogue, and take action to stem the tide of societal violence. For more information: NASPA

Senior Student Affairs Officers
NASPA REGION V RETREAT

June 23, 24 & 25, 2010
Portland, Oregon
RESIDENCE INN
PORTLAND DOWNTOWN
AT RIVERPLACE

You are invited to the SSAO Regional Retreat that provides the opportunity for participants to take the time to honestly reflect and problem solve with colleagues. This is an intimate setting for sharing ideas, talking over solutions and building strong professional relationships. The timing of this event is designed to put a cap on your academic year, to give you ideas for the coming year, and to offer a tonic for the stress that comes with our positions and our profession. We look forward to your presence and your “voice at the table.”

- Expect to be refreshed by the level of candor within the conversations.
- Expect to build friendships and productive relationships with your colleagues throughout the region.
- Expect comfortable accommodations, wonderful meals and lively conversations.

The Retreat is sponsored by NASPA and Bon Appétit and is limited to 40 participants. Register online.

Questions? Laura Majovski, Region V SSAO Liaison and Retreat Coordinator and Vice President for Student Life at Pacific Lutheran University.

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322 Region V members registered for the Chicago 2010 National Conference!

War and the Soul: Creating Healing Academic Communities for Our Nation’s Veterans
Featuring Edward Tick
May 6 & 7
The Evergreen State College

Working with Undocumented Students on Campus

A drive-in workshop

With a screening of the new film Papers

Register by April 18th for this free workshop by emailing Ficha Pineda at pinya@pu.edu.

Events include a screening of “Papers, The Movie” followed by a Q & A with one of the film’s producers. I lunch and an afternoon presentation by Dr. Susana Muñoz, University of Iowa. Dr. Muñoz completed her dissertation on undocumented students in higher education and will share her research.

Susana Muñoz

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