Welcome from the new Regional Vice President!

Welcome to the regional newsletter! We hope you come to rely on this electronic publication for information on programs and professional development, networking opportunities, and news from our Knowledge Communities, Divisions, and our States/Provinces. Our newsletter coordinator, Ali Hicks, will be managing this endeavor and we welcome your participation as well.

Our hope is to have an electronic publication for the region once a month during the academic year and then once over the summer months. That’s an ambitious goal as everyone is busy and newsletter articles add one more thing to plates that are already overflowing. The Advisory Board has committed to supporting the newsletter by making contributions and will solidify that commitment at our retreat in June when we will set up a schedule so we all can stay organized and keep our deadlines in sight.

You don’t have a requirement to contribute to this publication, but you can contribute at your leisure. Please send along information from your campuses to share with the region: program descriptions, observations from your campus, thoughts on current issues and events, or even just news about staff arrivals and departures. The newsletter is meant to draw us closer and keep us all informed.

By keeping this newsletter active and vibrant, we can learn about the wonderful programs happening in our region, find out what’s happening at institutions with our colleagues in Canada and Europe, and keep current on important issues that impact our profession and our organization. We will work in earnest to give you a full and dynamic issue each time.

So as we slide into summer (once the weather decides to catch up!) and you begin to prioritize your list of projects for these “quiet” months, I hope there is time to catch up on a few things (I started my “to do” list and already I can tell there are going to be edits). I hope you have time this summer to get through your list without sacrificing the time you need to enjoy family and friends, or a few quiet moments to catch up on your reading, and to clear your desk for that fall fresh start. Perhaps we will hear from some of you as to how you spent your summer months! Remember to stay connected to NASPA through our web pages to get all the latest news and updates from the national office and around the country.

Enjoy your summer!
Nancy
Nancy Crimmin
Region I Vice President
Dean of Campus Life, Assumption College, ncrimmin@assumption.edu
Reflections on the 2010 National Conference in Chicago

Lorriz Ann Alvarado and Melisa Jaquez were the recipients of the National Conference Scholarship to the Chicago conference. Gratefully, they have shared with us what their attendance has meant to them.

Lorriz Anne (Lori) Alvarado
Graduate Student, Higher Education & Student Affairs Administration, University of Vermont

First, I would like to show my gratitude for NASPA Region I for supporting my professional endeavors at the NASPA 2010 Annual Conference in Chicago, IL. This scholarship helped ease my worry and budgetary constraints.

This year's annual conference was simply amazing! I felt the theme "Live the Legacy, Be the Movement" throughout my time there. I am a NUFP alumna and over the years have made connections with wonderful mentors that continue to inspire me. The national conference allowed me to reconnect with them as well as their friends and colleagues. My professional network and student affairs friends have grown exponentially! Thanks to the KCs, Region I reception, and the Vermont Connection, NASPA feels like home more than ever before. Without attending the national conference, I would not have made new friends and connected with the people I have had over those 3.5 short days.

My happiest moments were connecting and reconnecting with people in the KCs, my NUFP Summer Leadership Institute class (most of us hadn't seen each other since 2007), and a few of the honored legacies. Seeing myself as a future young professional along with my fellow NUFP fellows and alumni, it dawned on me during the conference that we are "the movement," the future of the field. But our prospective careers have been and are supported by our mentors and personal connections with those that we see who "live the legacy." I especially saw the connection as a volunteer table facilitator for the NUFP Pre-Conference. As a NUFP alumna and almost done with graduate school, I was passing on to them my experiences and reflective questions. They were looking to me for my support through their process of applying and attending a higher education and/or student affairs graduate program. In line with my mentors, I was more than happy to help them with anything they asked; it was a wonderful feeling to see a little relief come across their faces as well as leave them with questions and thoughts to reflect on.

In the past, when I have had the chance to attend a conference, it was about soaking in as much information as I could about student affairs. As an undergraduate student, I spent more time in sessions than in my hotel room because I wanted to learn as much as I could about all areas of the field. Especially if I had no experience or understanding of that specific area, I was excited to learn more and explore my options. Now, as I am job searching and trying to hone in on what I want to do for my first job after graduate school, I picked sessions and made connections with people that explored my current assistantship (FYE) and future in mind. Knowing that I want to work with students-in-transition and/or toward access for and retention of first generation college students, I targeted sessions that addressed these groups and developed skill areas that I knew needed more work.

Overall the conference was an amazing experience! I appreciated the variety of sessions this year; it made picking which ones to attend incredibly difficult. It also didn’t help that every other session I chose was in a different hotel (good thing I brought comfortable dress shoes). Albeit, being in the middle of Downtown Chicago (Magnificent Mile) had its perks and much appreciated distractions. Saying goodbyes and leaving the conference was bittersweet, but I left energized and ready to take on my next big step in my career. I am grateful for the whirlwind experience and look forward to the next national conference.

See you in Philadelphia in 2011!
Melisa Jaquez  
New Professional, Fairfield University

The elevator ride down from the 29th floor of the Sheraton Hotel was crowded. This was the first time in three days where I had to wait for an elevator to fit two more people to ride down to the lobby. After three days of interviewing candidates at the Placement Exchange, this sudden change in traffic was a small sign of what was to come. The lobby, escalators and reception areas of the Sheraton were now all full with Student Affairs professionals from all over the country.

Day 1 of the 2010 NASPA Conference: Live the Legacy, Be the Movement, was well on its way. Having attended the NASPA Region 1 conference on three previous occasions, I thought I knew what was to come. My first surprise came when I walked into the Sheraton Chicago Ballroom for the opening speaker, Martha J. Kanter. My exact thought was, “I have never seen so many Student Affairs professionals in one location, EVER!” The rows of chairs and people kept going from one end of the ballroom to the other. According to Lori White, Conference Chair, 4,852 people were in attendance at the conference. This would be my first impression of my first national conference. BIG! However, I did not let this overwhelm me.

Three days later with multiple sessions, receptions and speakers under my belt, I felt accomplished. From the sessions I learned everything from how to deal with a natural disaster to working with undocumented students and the history/origins of NASPA. As a woman in Student Affairs, one of the sessions which I enjoyed and benefited the most from discussed the topic of balancing motherhood with work. Though I am not currently a mother, I was glad that I attended this session. I know in the future I want to pursue a Ph.D., eventually work in a senior level position, but more importantly I know I also want to be a mother. From this session, I learned that it’s never too early to start thinking and planning for these three goals, and that there exists golden rules that can help you succeed in all three. One last thing I took away from this session and from my entire conference experience is that no matter where you are in your profession its never too early or too late to connect with others. Connecting with other Student Affairs mothers or networking and connecting with individuals at other schools who, just like you, enjoy working with students and are committed to their development and success is important.

During her speech, 66th U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said, “If you don’t know anybody, nobody will know who you are.” Rice encouraged all those present to make connections. Conferences such as NASPA allow us this opportunity which should be taken advantage of no matter where you are in your career. Networking and connecting with other professionals in our field not only helps us learn what others are doing in the field but it also helps revitalize our energy and commitment to the development of our students and our institutions.
Announcing the 2010 Region I Conference in Manchester, NH!

Call for Programs
Website Live
Mid-June!

Registration Open
Early Fall

Hotel Reservation
Deadline
October 16

Program Submissions
due: July 23

Conference Tips...

Get Ready to “Climb to New Heights” with your 2010 Regional Conference program proposals!

Have you thought about submitting a program for the NASPA Regional conference but wondered how it was done? Have you submitted before and been rejected and want to try again? Here are a few bullet points for submitting a successful program proposal!

♦ Is your program and title relevant to the conference theme? Can you connect your content to our conference goal of “Climbing to New Heights”?
♦ Have you talked with a KC that has expertise in your program area? Could you partner with a KC?
♦ If you are an entry level professional do you have the expertise on your subject needed for a program presentation? If you are in doubt, could you partner with a Mid-Level/Senior Student Affairs officer who could help?
♦ Have you put in the time to create a well designed program proposal?

Be on the lookout for more “climbing” tips in the weeks to come and check our website in mid-June for specific helpful hints for all areas of program proposal submission! Start planning now!

Questions, let me know!

Jennifer Michael, Programs and Pre-conference Chair
Assistant Dean
Director of Student Activities
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
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Financial Literacy: Start Caring

By Richard J. DeCapua, Ed.D.
Associate Dean of Students, Suffolk University

Most entering first-year students at many orientation programs around the country will learn about campus safety, take placement tests, meet new peers, etc. However, many programs are not teaching students about financial literacy. This is outside the bounds of a one-hour speaker during orientation or a presentation in a first-year seminar class. Those sessions generally focus on monthly budgeting or credit card use. What is needed is in-depth understanding of one’s financial aid package such as minimum GPA requirements, satisfactory completion issues, when repayment begins, etc. However, by the time they even step foot on our campuses, this process is already in full swing.

It starts in the senior year of high school. We all remember the process (or at least our parents do): fill out college applications and the FAFSA, wait and see what federal aid you get, get accepted, see what your net tuition is, and then you make a decision. Many then come to our campuses without any idea about how the expense of college will impact their future and at the same time are trying to understand a new environment and system where something like “the Bursar” sounds like the main villain from a Pixar movie. These decisions impact students for the rest of their lives, while the field of student affairs has focused on developing other skills: leadership development, multicultural competencies, etc. Well, the critical time has come for our profession to focus on financial skill building, and that starts with us.

The Education Department’s most recent data estimates that from 2007 to 2008 the rate of students defaulting on their loans within the first two years rose from 6.7 to 7.2 percent (2010). A very scary statistic since the reasonable assumption would be that the effort we made with some students is wasted as these defaults keep them from achieving personal and professional goals. So what is the solution? First and foremost is understanding the issues, and that begins by defining financial literacy for student affairs professionals. For us it primarily means understanding how our students are able to afford a college education. This is difficult since the experts (financial service staff) are usually not part of the student affairs division and are members of a very prestigious club. Like information technology and library/information science professionals, the financial service staff are a small group who know everything about a critical aspect of a student’s experience at the institution. That means that no one else has that information or in some cases, not even a simple grasp of the knowledge. How many times when meeting with a student do we say “You should talk to your financial aid counselor about that”? I wager we do that quite a bit. Now does that mean we become experts to give financial aid advice? Absolutely not. What it does mean is that as a profession we begin to think about education ourselves.

Understand More
Do you know what your institution’s net tuition price is on average? Do you know your discount rate? What comprises the fees that students pay? If you cannot answer any of these questions, then you need to find the answers. Student Affairs staff can assist with mental health issues or take the lead during a crisis, but if we have limited understanding about our students’ financial struggles we are missing out on a developmental moment.

Apply It
The next time you work with a student who has a financial issue, try to be the link between them and the financial services office if appropriate. You will learn critical information, but the student will also see you as being invested in their problem. After you have helped the student, go back to financial services and ask clarifying questions so you can assist the next student with a broader knowledge base. Do not be ashamed to ask questions.

Develop It
Senior student affairs officers should make it a priority for their staff members to be financially competent about financial aid and their institution. The only way to achieve this is through training programs, and quite frankly, it is not difficult, and there are many institutional and outside resources one can tap. We have sessions at our institutions on retirement plans and mutual funds. Why not some on financial aid?

The elephant in the room is that colleges and universities are businesses (do not let the non-profit status fool you!) and if you disagree ask how much of your institution’s operating budget is being directed toward student aid. I bet that it is one of your top three expenses. The student affairs profession needs to make the same kind of leap with financial literacy as we did with assessment, policy, and crisis response; having it ingrained as part of our conferences and conversations. Simply put: we need to do better.

Check out the following announcements, information, and articles from the many outstanding Region I Knowledge Communities!

**KC for Parent and Family Relations**
Greetings Region I! The Region I PFRKC website has been recently updated. Be sure to check it out! At [http://www.naspa.org/regions/regioni/kc/pfrkc.cfm](http://www.naspa.org/regions/regioni/kc/pfrkc.cfm). We hope that you are able to gather resources and stay current on the topic of parental involvement research and successful practices. Those interested in being an active part of this KC should contact Angela Watson at awatson@umassd.edu.

**KC for International Education**
Over 50 colleagues from all over the world met for the 15th annual International Symposium prior to the NASPA annual conference in Chicago, IL. A special part of this conference is to honor institutions for best practices in international education. The list of awards given is listed below:

I - **International Programming** - Programs that stimulate increased awareness and enhanced global perspective in college students through campus-based initiatives or projects sponsored by student affairs organizations.
- The Global Link Scholarship Program, University of Wisconsin—La Crosse
- Building Multicultural Leadership thru Adventure, Universidad de Monterrey

II - **Global Partnership Program** - Programs that encourage collaboration with colleagues and students internationally to enhance global perspective.
- Best Practice Award: Research Partnership to Increase Global Understanding about College Student Development, University of Florida

III - **International Exchange Program** - Programs promoting global competency and cultural exchange via campus sponsored travel and or host family initiatives.
- Best Practice Award: Emerald Eagle Program, University of North Texas

IV - **Student Philanthropy** - Programming that engages students in an international focused service project. Program length may vary (i.e. shorter term relief effort or an ongoing project).
- The Heston Summer Experience, Gettysburg College
- Transformational Leadership and Service Project in Rural Area, Universidad of Monterrey

Please consider nominating programs at your institutions for the 16th annual International Symposium being held in Philadelphia, PA, March 12-13, 2011. For more information, please visit the International Education Knowledge Community section of the NASPA website or contact Gin Schaffer, Region I IEKC representative at gschaff@bu.edu.
“African-American Retention and Student Success”
Drive-in Conference a Success!

By Austin Ashe
African American Concerns KC Coordinator
Associate Director of Alumni and Parent Relations, Quinnipiac University

On April 19th, 2010 NASPA’s Region 1 AAKC leadership team hosted the “African-American Retention and Student-Success” drive-in conference. Almost fifty Region 1 members descended upon Saint Anselm’s College in Manchester, NH to participate in what was a day full of rich discussion and learning. The conference featured three presentations and a mid-day keynote address from Dr. James Pogue, CEO of the College Doctor L.L.C. (for more about Dr. James Pogue, please go to: www.thecollegedoctor.org).

All presentations addressed various issues relating to retaining and graduating African-American college students. The conference started with a lively discussion with Dwayne Brewington from Capital Community College. Mr. Brewington presented on “How Identity Development, Study Strategies and Multicultural Organizational Development can Help Black Men Navigate College Successfully.” His presentation had participants take a closer look at the bias and rejection that many black male students face when making the decision to aspire for higher education. The session taught various ways that professionals could be allies for students facing these tough situations. Mr. Brewington is currently the Coordinator of the Black and Latino Resource Center at Capital Community College.

Our mid-day keynote by Dr. James Pogue highlighted “Seven Factors in Student Success: Refining Institutional Responsibility in Retention and Student Success.” Dr. James Pogue’s brilliant anecdotal address reminded us of our responsibility to make sure that all members of our institutions are partnering with us in practice and theory in order to deliver what is needed for our students to be successful.

After lunch Dr. Candice Baldwin, the Director of Multicultural Affairs at Mount Ida College, presented “The Balfour Mentoring Program.” This session offered conference participants a view of how a peer-mentoring program can lend a huge hand when it comes to not only retaining and graduating African-American students, but ensuring that they have an experience that will enrich their college experience and give them the tools they need in order to be leaders in today’s global society. Throughout the presentation Dr. Baldwin took participants through how the program has made significant changes at the school. The presentation also featured two student presenters who spoke about the program’s significant impact on their college experience. One participant said, “The session by the folks from Mount Ida was wonderful and the most helpful for our campus.”

The day ended with Marilyn Bates and William Johnson and their presentation on “The Swing Dean.” Their presentation highlighted two models of how the “swing dean” approach improves critical retention rates and has put more Black and African-American students on a path towards graduation. A “swing dean” was described as a dean-level professional whose roles and responsibilities may swing each semester in order to fit a university’s need to attract a diverse student body and graduate a diverse student body. The swing dean also swings in order to ensure that students are receiving all available resources and support that will hopefully give them a rich academic and out-of-classroom college experience. Ms. Bates currently serves as the Director of Multicultural Affairs and Associate Dean for Student Transition at Bates College. Mr. Johnson is currently the Assistant Dean of Students and the Director of the Office of Diversity of Programs at Fairfield University.

A very special thanks and shout out goes to Tanya Robinson who was the coordinator of this conference. She and her leadership team—Janis Peters, Jennifer DeCoste and William Johnson—put together a fantastic professional development opportunity for the members of Region 1.

The AAKC looks forward to providing you with quality professional development opportunities. If you would like to hear more about joining our team, please contact the Region 1 AAKC Representative, Austin Ashe at austin.ashe@quinnipiac.edu. Thank you NASPA for being supportive of our efforts.
Like many colleges, Unity College has a First Year Experience course designed to introduce incoming students to the mission of the College and what it means to be a college student. The course also covers the issues and challenges that face the typical Unity College incoming student during the year. Unlike many other colleges, Unity College is an environmental college with all of its majors focused on environmental issues. Perhaps one of the most valued part of Unity College’s mission is to nurture its students to become stewards of the Earth. Therefore, often the first year experience class picks an environmental theme as its focus. This year was no different, as the theme was “Take Back the Tap.”

The “Take Back the Tap” theme is based on the Take Back the Tap movement of the Food and Water Watch group featured in the documentary Tapped. Basically the idea behind Take Back the Tap is an effort to get people to return to drinking water from their tap and not bottled water. The problem with bottled water is two-fold. The first problem is how the water companies are obtaining their water. Large corporations like Nestlé and Coca-Cola are taking large amounts of water from small towns like Farmington, Maine, which adversely affects the water table of the town. In many states, underground water is controlled by the owner of the land above it. This means that a water company can come into a small town, purchase land above a known underground water source, and tap that source regardless of who might using the water downstream. Other times the large water companies are just taking city tap water and bottling it, advertising it as more natural/pure than tap water. The second problem is the plastic bottles the water is packaged in. Manufacturing of the plastic bottles is very harmful to the environment and to people around the manufacturing plant. Additionally, very few plastic bottles are recycled. An example of an environmental problem caused by this is that parts of the ocean are now becoming filled with plastic bottles and some beaches are now made up of small bits of plastic instead of sand.

The “Take Back the Tap” program at Unity College began this past summer in July with the College sponsoring the showing of Tapped at the Maine Film Festival. Tapped is a documentary on the water bottling business in the United States and looks at the problems bottle water is causing in the environment.

The Student Affairs department at Unity College grabbed the reins of the program. Dean for Student Affairs Gary Zane, who also is one of the instructors of the First Year Experience course, was a champion of the Take Back the Tap program, with support of the human resources and President’s offices. To make sure the program wasn’t just a onetime gimmick for incoming students, Dean Zane purchased enough stainless steel water bottles for every student, staff member, and faculty member to use so that the whole campus could become involved in the water discussion. The water bottles are emblazoned with the Student Creed of Integrity, Environment, Community, and Respect. Dean Zane also worked with the college’s maintenance department to fit all of the water fountains on campus with special faucets designed for filling up water bottles. Finally students were encouraged to use their water bottles in the cafeteria and student center.

New Student Orientation this year ended with “Take Back the Tap” Fest, an afternoon of games, live music, dancing, and outdoor activities. Students received their stainless steel water bottles to encourage use of tap water. The final part of the Take Back the Tap program was in the First Year Experience classes where each class viewed the documentary Flow and discussed the pros and cons of bottled water.

Take Back the Tap has turned into a symbol at Unity College. Students carry their water bottles with pride and are now more knowledgeable about the issues concerning bottled water and are one step closer to becoming stewards of the Earth. The program also was a great response by the College to students’ interest in sustainability issues. The Take Back The Tap program is a program any college can adapt, you don’t need to be an environmental college and the program can serve as a spring board for any institution thinking about beginning or enhancing their sustainability program.

So go take back the Tap!
Dr. MOM: Achieving Life Balance as an SSAO and Mother

By Marita Labedz Poll
Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, University of Massachusetts Boston
On behalf of the KC for Women in Student Affairs

I attended a meeting the other day with several faculty, staff and students and as we were settling in I was engaging in small talk with a friend and colleague. She knows I’m new to New England and she asks how I’m doing and how my family is doing. I tell her I am well and that the family is just fine. She leans in toward me and whispers, “I just don’t know how you do it. Working full time and managing three kids! When I get home at night I’m exhausted and I don’t have any kids!”

I don’t tell her this, but I’m not sure how I do it on some days either! Seeking balance has always been a challenge for me, even when my husband and I were childless. I’ve always enjoyed connecting with students on “student time” and would stay late in the office or on the campus meeting with students and attending events. Heck, I’d even return to campus at 2:00 in the morning for the closing of a campus party or unrest on the fraternity quad—many of us recall these situations with affection.

As I have grown professionally and personally, the priorities in my life in need of balance have changed, but the need to be intentional and clear about integrating roles and moving toward balance has remained. One of my most challenging accomplishments to date has been the completion of my doctoral work.

Developing a dissertation proposal, traveling to collect my data, and then carving out time to write each chapter was only possible because of the support of my family, and especially my wildly supportive husband. Side note…when I graduated, my family was leaving the auditorium where the ceremony was held and as we were leaving we heard this voice from behind us say, “Oh you are the woman with the three children…I want to meet your husband!” Needless to say, my husband enjoyed that very deserved recognition for all the work he had done to help me reach my goal.

Last fall I was reading Womenomics by Claire Shipman and Katty Kay and was reminded of the ways in which we as women can benefit from sharing our ideas on integrating our roles in an attempt to bring more stillness and joy into our lives. I was inspired to interview several women in our field who aspire to be SSAOs and some who have had significant experience in this role. I was delighted to hear about the ways in which they seek balance and the excellent advice they gave to me and all the women in student affairs.

Most challenging:
The first question I asked was what each woman found most challenging. Answers ranged from gaining tenure after having two children to being consistent in bringing my best self to the office every day. On the other hand, one woman said, “I have to be available to everyone (student and staff) all day long, solve problems all day long, so at the end of the day my reserve is drained and that is when my children need me the most. When I get home that is my time with the kids and my husband, but that is when I have the least to give.” Also, schedule conflicts and a need to sometimes be in many places at the same time—be at a conference, on campus, or at a child’s soccer game—were sources of frustration.

Rules for success:
Making time for yourself was a common theme. The ability to bring your best self to campus and to your family was commonly linked by many of the women interviewed as a key to self-preservation and a feeling of more balance. Also being confident, knowing your value as well as establishing appropriate boundaries and saying no were suggested as key elements in the integration roles. As one woman explained, “I know how to say NO and when it is time to call it an end to a day. I know what my priorities are—my family and my job—and other things tend to fall by the wayside.”

(continued)
Dr. Mom (continued)

Myths:
The most common myth identified was that balance can be achieved. It’s an ongoing process that works on some
days and less on others. The key is to consistently re-evaluate priorities and know your intentions. One woman
said, “You can’t have a flexible schedule that sticks, you have to have a plan B and a backup.” Lastly, the idea that
you can’t do both is a myth. It’s not easy to be an SSAO and a mom, but all the women interviewed agree that
they wouldn’t have it any other way.

Advice:
The women interviewed for the “Dr. Mom Project” were extremely generous in sharing sage advice. They
suggested the importance of being authentic, selecting the right partner for support and a division of labor at
home, maintaining a sense of humor, relying on friends for help and support, and perhaps most importantly,
working for the “right” boss.

Lastly, one of the women interviewed shared words of encouragement to those of us who wish for better
balance. She suggested it was important to connect with other women in our field to share ideas and continue
the conversation…

In that spirit I’ve developed a blog and invite you to get involved in the conversation:

State-Province Spotlight!

Greetings from Montreal! Bonjour de Montréal ! I am pleased and honoured
to serve as your NASPA Region I Provincial Coordinator for Canada. Yes,
that’s right—honoured with a “U.”

As a proud resident of the diverse and richly vibrant city of Montreal,
Quebec, I feel lucky to be a part of an urban community that includes four
universities—two English, and two French. At McGill University, our student
body represents a mix of Québécois, Canadians from other provinces, and an international student
population that accounts for 19% of our total enrollment. I am pleased to live in a society that embraces the
value of inclusivity and promotes diversity.

The Quebec education system differs significantly from the rest of Canada. Quebec students complete a two-
year college program before entering three-year university degree programs, while in the nine other
provinces and three Canadian territories, students complete four-year undergraduate programs. As a native
Ontarian with many years of experience at the University of Toronto, I am familiar with both of these
systems and the various challenges that arise for student affairs staff working in both situations.

I welcome you to contact me with any comments or questions that you may have. Il me fera plaisir de vous
répondre en anglais ou en français.

Jana Luker
Provincial Coordinator for Canada
Executive Director, Services for Students, McGill University
Massachusetts NASPA has had a very busy spring semester. In and amongst the election of several new board members, multiple events have been coordinated this spring, most notably the Vinny T’s networking social in April. This annual event is co-sponsored with several other Massachusetts organizations, including MCPA, BACHA and ASCA.

The board is meeting on June 14, 2010 to discuss goals and objectives for the year to come, and we will be releasing our calendar of events in the weeks following the retreat; however, we are thrilled to announce that on June 17, 2010 at Boston College, MA-NASPA will be sponsoring a special drive-in workshop for SSAOs on the topic of “Working with the Media.” Sandy Curewitz, Director of Communications at Becker College, will be facilitating this program that will provide hands-on training on communications techniques with millennial students and how to deal effectively with the media in times of crisis. A panel of SSAOs, as well as representatives from Spellman & Johnson, will also be on hand to share their expertise on the subject.

While all of the positions on the Massachusetts state board are currently filled, we are still seeking host locations for events this coming year. If you are interested in hosting a social or a quarterly meeting, please e-mail me at ldeveau@mountida.edu.

Thank you, Massachusetts for such a strong year! Here’s to a great summer and may it be both productive and relaxing for you all!

All the best,
Laura De Veau, M.Ed.
State Director, Massachusetts NASPA
Director of Residence Life, Mount Ida College

On Friday, April 16, students from the Master’s program at the University of Rhode Island came to Bryant University to meet with several professional staff from the Student Affairs division to discuss organizational issues and to gain knowledge about the field. Sixteen students attended, along with their professor, Dr. Annemarie Vaccaro. Following the morning meeting, the students enjoyed lunch and further discussion with Dr. Tom Eakin, Vice President for Student Affairs at Bryant, and Dr. Tom Dougan, Vice President for Student Affairs at the University of Rhode Island. The feedback from the students was very positive, so we will continue to offer this as an annual event.

Thanks!
Judy Kawamoto
State Director, Rhode Island NASPA
Associate Dean for Student Life, Bryant University

About the Newsletter
Starting Fall 2010, the NASPA Region I Newsletter will be published monthly. Submissions are always welcome and may be submitted to Ali Hicks at ahicks@stonehill.edu. Feel free to include any images with your submissions and, when possible, include the names and institutions of all people featured. Electronic versions of past issues can be found archived on the NASPA Region I website.