This year’s Exemplary Programs Winners from Region I are:

- Kirsten Swan with her entry of Girls Talk
- Nita Lamborghini with her entry of Northern Essex Community College Student Leadership Development Program

The State Award Winners for 2003

CONNECTICUT
Outstanding Graduate Student - Cheryl Janus, Mitchell College
Outstanding New Professional - Michael T. Clear, Quinnipiac University
Program of the Year - Irwin Nussbaum/Music for a Change, University of Hartford

MAINE
Catch a Rising Star - Amber Ulmer, University of Maine at Farmington
Outstanding Graduate Student - Jennie Dargie, University of Maine
Outstanding Mid-Level Professional - Sheri Cousins, University of Maine

MASSACHUSETTS
Catch a Rising Star - Ryan McGill, Massachusetts College of Art
Outstanding Graduate Student - Angela Freitas, Assumption College
Outstanding New Professional - Alicen Adams, Dean College
Outstanding Mid-Level Professional - David Zamojski, Boston University
Program of the Year - Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Merrimack College

RHODE ISLAND
Catch A Rising Star - Catherine Oswald, Brown University
Catch A Rising Star - Kenneth Anderson, Rhode Island College
Outstanding Graduate Student - Mahi Takazawa, University of Rhode Island
REGION I READS

BY Hollie Ingraham - University of Maine at Farmington

Delight Champagne - Springfield College

This is Part 3 of 3 in a continuing series from the regional fall conference. The following are recommended readings from our colleagues from around the region. Check them out!

- The Art of Resilience
- The Leadership Pill
- Boy Meets Girl
- Lives In Transition
- Bird By Bird
- Traveling Mercies
- Working with Diverse Populations
- Dirty Girls Society Club
- Pools Crow
- Heart Song of Charging Elk
- Indian Lawyer
- A Hope in the Unseen
- The Pact
- Why are all the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria
- When the Emperor was Divine
- Letters to Montgomery Clift
- Leadership
- The Five People You Meet in Heaven
- Diary of a Blues Goddess
- Clever Girl
- Madame Albrigt's Secretary
- Dark Tide
- Her Life
- Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Keckly
- The Mercury 13
- Triangle
- Couldn't Keep it to Myself
- War Torn: Women's journals in Viet Nam
- Beating the House
As this issue of the newsletter gets posted, students all over our campuses are recovering from the celebration of Valentine's Day—a holiday which I loved in grammar school, but detested as I grew older. This was probably due to the fact, more often than not that I was single and the only Valentine I would get was from my mother. In college there was a group of us who would wear black on this fateful day as a way to protest, and/or in some ways, celebrate our single status. I am not sure that many of you could tell me how the tradition of Valentine’s Day started*. Although I bet you all could recount to me at least one Valentine’s Day where you felt like hiding as those around you received the obligatory chocolates and roses. As our students bask in the aftermath of this day, I have been told very few are worrying about the implications of their actions on what is hyped up to be the most romantic night of the year - and that my friends is an alarming thought.

This carefree attitude was also recently confirmed in story which ran in the Northeast section of the Sunday Hartford Courant. The story, entitled “A Short Course in College Sex”, was written by a former intern at the paper who is a junior at a local college. The author, Edna Guerrasio, states that "around every corner, at any hour of the day, any day of the week, students are having sex, lots of sex.” She continues by stating relationships during college “are casual, random and almost always nonexistent” and “that these ‘relationships’ are not about sex. They are sex.” I am sure many of you are not that surprised by this statement. I am sure many of you, like me, have seen the signs of this attitude emerge on campus over the past few years. I can’t be the only one who has had that unexpected parental phone call complaining about roommates having sex while their other roommates are trying to sleep.

More alarming is that when you combine this new casual attitude with the fact that this generation has grown up never knowing a world without HIV and AIDS, I am afraid it makes the potential for an explosive situation. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) currently estimates that one half of all new infections of HIV/AIDs in the United States occur among people under the age of 25. Additional research studies indicate that today’s college students engage in a variety of health behaviors that may put them at increased risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. And it is becoming more common to see headlines such as “‘Safe Sex Fatigue’ Grows Among Gay Students” (The Chronicle of Higher Education, January 18, 2002).

I must say that I think most institutions of higher education have also become “fatigued” with educating students about HIV and AIDS. I think we have taken it for granted in past years, that our students learned all they need to know about “safe sex” in high school and that there is not much more we can teach them. As I read Ms. Guerrasio’s article, I began to think that as an educator and administrator this belief is far from the truth. Students need to be reminded on an on-going basis the importance of practicing safe sex as well as the risk associated with such trends as piercing and tattooing. We may not be able to change this generation’s belief about sex being a casual activity, but we can make sure they have all the information they need to remain healthy in this ever changing world.

*The Legend of Valentine’s Day

One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. It was during this period that Emperor Claudius II decided that single men who were unencumbered with wives and families made better soldiers. Thus, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine’s actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. It is alleged that before his death he wrote her a letter which he signed “From Your Valentine” to the jailor’s daughter with whom he fell in love.
Attached are the most current updates from the NASPA Center for Public Policy. The NASPA website, www.naspa.org, can provide greater detail under the Public Policy link.

**Legislative and Regulatory Developments:**

- President Bush, in his state of the union address, called for more federal spending for community colleges, PELL grants and advanced placement programs in low-income schools. He also indicated a proposed $250 million in job training grants with the established, primarily through the community colleges. There are also pending changes in the eligibility tables for Pell Grants that may limit funding for some current students.

- Congress is still meeting on the College Affordability and Accountability Act. This bill would establish a task force to determine how to better determine cost efficiency in higher education while providing quality education.

- SEVIS - The proposed rule is listed in the October 27th Federal Register and indicates the proposed rules in which international students, scholars and researchers (F,M,& J Non-immigrant VISA categories) will be governed.

- **Major Legislative Proposals:**

  - **HR3408, College and Job Opportunities for the Future Act:** Authorize $30 million for grants for higher education institutions and other institutions to enrich students' experiences for work opportunities assisting them in future careers.

  - **HR3465, Repealing Limitations on the Deduction for Student Loan Interest:** This rule would repeal the limitations on the deduction for interest on educational loans and make the deduction permanent.

  - **HR7 S.476, Care Act:** This Act would permit taxpayers that do not itemize deductions to deduct some of their charitable gifts. It would also allow donors to shift money from IRAs directly to a charity without paying federal income tax.

  - **S.1545, Dream Act:** This Act would allow alien minors to attend colleges in their states for in-state tuition as well as allow them an opportunity to legalize their immigration status.

Things are relatively quiet since Congress has been in recess. Things are expected to pick up in the spring on reauthorization and other items when they resume. Please attend the Public Policy meetings at the NASPA annual conference in Denver. They will be informative.

If you have any questions, please contact me at www.ajackson@wsc.ma.edu.
Dear Region I Friends,

Two of our Region I colleagues have been approved by the NASPA Foundation Board to be installed as Pillars of the Profession at the Denver National Conference in March. Pillars of the Profession is the designation that NASPA gives to those individuals whose service to the student affairs profession has been exemplary and whose work has influenced the lives of both students and colleagues over the years. Our two Region I nominees fit this criteria with grace and style.

Dr. Evelyn Clement is well-known to Region I for her exemplary leadership as the Vice President for Student Development at Middlesex Community College. Evelyn is one of those rare individuals who devoted all most all of her professional life to one institution, and was instrumental in the emergence of Middlesex as a leader in Massachusetts higher education over the years. Here are all of her titles in a career at MCC that began in 1971: Assistant Director of Admissions; Counselor; Affirmative Action Officer; Transfer and Personal Counselor; Director of Counseling and Placement; Associate Dean of Student Development; Dean of Student Development; and finally, since 2000, Vice President for Student Development. Over her many years of service at Middlesex, Evelyn has earned a reputation as a leader in student affairs and has built a much-admired program for her institution. Evelyn retired from Middlesex Community College in December, 2003. Throughout her career, she has been involved in NASPA in many capacities, including recent service as the Community College Network Chair, the SSAO Coordinator for the Region, and on the NASPA Journal Editorial Board. She is currently serving a term as the President of the National Council for Student Development (NCSD). Evelyn's thoughtful and professional manner has made her a valued and trusted colleague and mentor to many both regionally and nationally and her contributions will be remembered and valued.

Dr. Jack Warner's contributions to NASPA are many and varied. He has been the Regional Vice President for Region I from 1994-1996, and served as the National President of the organization in 1997-1998. Currently serving as Chancellor for Higher Education for the state of Rhode Island, Jack has also been Vice Chancellor for Higher Education in Massachusetts. For 17 years, he was the Dean of Student Affairs at Bristol Community College (MA) and also served in several administrative positions in student affairs at Northern Essex Community College. He has been a member of the faculty in the Lynch School of Education at Boston College and is often credited with raising awareness nationally about the significance of the community college as a force in American higher education. Jack’s creative and original thinking about higher education and student affairs make him a much sought-after frequent speaker and panelist at NASPA events. He is a valued friend and mentor to many in Region I and beyond.

Now is the time for us to support our nominees with donations on their behalf to the Pillars program. We write to ask your support in the fund-raising effort. In order to be named a Pillar, $1000 must be raised in each nominee’s name. We hope that we will make a statement of broad-based support for Evelyn and Jack as a way of noting the importance of contributions made over many years by our colleagues. Small contributions can make a big difference in this effort, because we would like a significant percentage of the Region to be involved. If you are able to make a contribution, please send your check to the address below and indicate if you are supporting one or both of the nominees.

NASPA Foundation
Pillars of the Profession
C/o Ms. Carla Dicks
1875 Connecticut Ave NW
Suite 418
Washington, DC  20009

Thank you for your support of the Pillars program. Both Evelyn and Jack are Pillars of the Profession and treasures of Region I and they deserve our enthusiastic support.
MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Pedagogies of Engagement:
New Designs for Learning In and Across the Disciplines

Network for Academic Renewal Conference
April 15—17, 2004
InterContinental Chicago Hotel
Chicago, Illinois

This conference will bring together faculty, student affairs professionals, students, community partners, and administrators committed to engaged learning. Participants will discuss and learn how to institutionalize effective teaching strategies that engage students in deep learning experiences connected to their own goals and interests and that advance their sense of social responsibility and their global understanding. It will address innovative teaching strategies that engage students in the classroom, laboratory, campus, community, work place, or natural environment. Conference participants will learn ways to help students learn relevant knowledge about culture and the natural world and skills to use knowledge in constructive ways. For more information visit: http://www.aacu-edu.org/meetings/pedagogies/registrationandhotel.cfm

Cosponsored by NASPA and the Association for American Colleges and University

National Student Affairs Assessment
and
Retention Conference
June 3—June 5
Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort Hotel

In an era of declining resources, accrediting agencies, trustees and finance divisions increasingly scrutinize student affairs programs and services. More often than not, student affairs divisions are asked to produce measurable outcomes of student learning and development. Assessment is often linked directly with retention efforts at both small and large institutions. The conference will involve the presentation of new ideas, dialogue about application of those ideas and opportunities to engage in discussion of best practices and about future thinking on assessment and retention.

Higher Education and student affairs continues to face a critical challenge...the majority of new students entering higher education leave their initial college of choice without completing a degree. National reports have documented a rise in attrition rates since the early 1980s. Understanding the factors that influence retention and developing effective strategies to reduce attrition need to be a critical focus for all student affairs professionals.

Co-sponsored by NASPA and Arizona State University