

# Tacuspa Times

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Fall Conference Review and Pictures
- Letter from the President
- Book Review
- Meet the Board
- Book Review
- Guest Fellow Article

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## Greetings from the TACUSPA Board!

*Amanda Drum, President*

I was recently asked, "What is the benefit of TACUSPA membership?" TACUSPA provides a place for graduate students and new professionals to visit with senior student affairs officers and to get involved in volunteer roles early. It provides mid-level professionals the opportunity to network with their peers and hold positions of leadership. And it provides senior student affairs officers the chance to meet, network, share their knowledge and mentor the next generation. TACUSPA truly provides something for everyone.

The economy is impacting our campuses in numerous ways. Record enrollment is a boost to most campuses; but freezes on hiring and travel are a reality that many of us face. At the same time, new legislative mandates increase our need to stay connected and informed. TACUSPA can provide that connection. Our association continues to offer low cost membership options and opportunities to meet professional development and networking needs within the state of Texas.

This year, the TACUSPA Board will focus on the development of a new strate-



gic plan to carry us to 2015. We have already begun this process with a needs assessment to determine how the association can best serve its members in the coming years. Other goals for the year include an evaluation of our current caucus structure, outreach to graduate students and new professionals entering the field, increased communications with our Community College colleagues to better address their special needs and enhancement of the GEAR Commission.

TACUSPA will continue the partnership with the Texas Higher Education Law Conference in 2010. This year we will bring increased educational programs targeting

student affairs professionals and a Tuesday TACUSPA Networking Breakfast. This conference is not just for university legal council or judicial affairs officers. Session topics also focus on risk management, crisis intervention, housing, free speech, ADA, veteran's affairs and a host of others. Join us in Denton March 29-30.

The 2010 Annual Fall Conference will be held in Downtown Fort Worth at the Sheraton Hotel and Spa. Lisa Nagy from University of Texas at Arlington will serve as our conference chair. Lisa is looking for committee members to serve in all areas of the conference planning committee. Conference planning is a wonderful way to get involved – and stay involved – in TACUSPA.

I look forward to a great year but remember, this is your association and it takes you to make it work. Please get involved. We need you!

# 2009-2010 Officers

## Board Meeting Schedule

December 7

January 11-12 in Ft. Worth

February 1

March 1

March 28 in Denton

April 5

May 3

June 7

July 12

August 2

September 13

Meetings are held via  
teleconference unless  
otherwise noted.

Please,  
feel free to  
contact us!



President: Dr. Amanda Drum  
Director of University Housing  
Texas A&M Univ.-Corpus Christi  
Amanda.Drum@tamucc.edu



President-Elect: Dr. Trisha VanDuser  
Director, Student Development  
UNT Health Science Center  
vanduser@hsc.unt.edu



Past President: Dr. Elizabeth With  
Assoc. Vice President for Student Development  
University of North Texas  
ewith@unt.edu



VP for Administration: Ms. Alicia Huppe  
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Collin County Community College, Preston Ridge Campus  
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VP for Membership and Marketing: Mr. Grant Shallenberger  
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Treasurer: Mr. John D. Kaulfus  
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Director, Data Management and Technology: Dr. Deidra Graves Stephens  
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Secretary: Ms. Charlin Jones  
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Charlin.Jones@utsa.edu



Fall 2010 Conference Chair: Lisa Nagy  
Assistant Vice President, Student Affairs  
University of Texas at Arlington  
nagy@uta.edu

# Thanks for your feedback!



Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2009 TACUSPA Needs Assessment.

Your input is invaluable and important to the success of our association. The results will be used to develop our strategic plan for the next five years.

Thank you again for your dedication to our association!

- Trisha VanDuser

## **Becoming Socialized in Student Affairs Administration: A Guide for New Professionals and Their Supervisors** Edited by Ashley Tull, Joan B. Hirt, Sue Saunders

“Becoming Socialized in Student Affairs Administration: A Guide for New Professionals and Their Supervisors”, an edited volume based on both theory and practice, is focused on the importance of socialization in the student affairs profession. This book features 11 chapters which focused on the following parts: (1) the importance of effective socialization among new professionals, (2) environmental contexts and the future college student population, (3) positive socialization strategies and on-the-job socialization, and (4) conclusions and recommendations for effective socialization. Parts one and two are geared towards graduate preparation programs, while part three is more relevant for new professionals, their supervisors, and college administrators.

This book is important for the student affairs

field because it serves as a guide for student affairs administrators and graduation preparation programs to reduce the attrition rate in the student affairs professionals by promoting a socialization process.

One of the strengths of this book is the balance of theory and practice. Denise Collins, the author of the “The Socialization Process for New Professionals” chapter, strongly emphasized the stages of socialization and realms of professional practice as constructs from which to provide practical application in later chapters. Subsequent chapters seemly focused on the process through which student affairs professional persist during the socialization. These chapters highlighted graduate preparation programs as the first step in the socialization process, focusing on the importance of

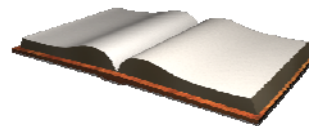
## Book Review

- Dr. Jennifer T. Edwards *“One of the*

*strengths of this book is the balance of theory and practice.”*

formal and informal orientation strategies for new professionals. The next chapters addressed the importance of relationship building in the socialization process through emphasizing supervision and mentorship, staff-peer relationships, institutional-wide initiatives, and professional associations/organizations.

In the conclusions and recommendations chap-

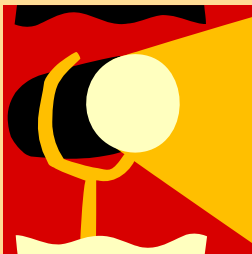


ter, having each major concept from prior chapters provided in list format would have been helpful. This list might serve as a potential checklist for new professionals, their supervisors, and college administrators. Overall, this book would be a great addition to an in-house library for student affairs offices.

## Foster Care Alumni: An Overlooked Student Population in Higher Education

### Introduction

Student affairs professionals around the nation are challenged to address issues that not only affect current student populations, but affect the future of social issues in the United States. A hot topic issue in higher education is underrepresented foster care alumni on college campuses across the nation.



### Statement of the Problem

Ideally, foster care is a temporary fix for a child found in an unsafe environment, yet currently there are more than 500,000 children in foster care in the U.S (Casey Family Programs, 2008). Some foster children, 9%, are never reunited with their parents/relatives or experience adoption (Casey Family Programs, 2003). These children are considered foster care alumni whom are released from their foster care parents at the age of 18 to attempt transition from foster care to become a productive member of society (Casey Family Programs 2008). According to Casey Family Programs (2003), of the foster care youth who age out of care, 65% experience seven or more school changes and only 74% (compared to 86% of the general population) complete high school or take the high school equivalency test. Although 70% of students who age

out of care plan to attend college, only 3-17% of those students will actually attend (compared to 51% of the general population)

(Casey Family Programs, 2008). Of those who attend college, only 2% will complete a bachelor's degree (Casey Family Programs, 2008).

Transitioning statistics for foster care alumni are cause for concern in higher education and for our social system. Casey Family Programs (2003) surveyed foster care alumni 12-18 months after they transitioned out of care and found that 42.2% were experience one or more nights of homeless, 27% of males and 10% of females were incarcerated, 33% were receiving public assistance, and 50% were unemployed. Researchers from the National Institute of Justice found that one in four incarcerated females admitted having a child in foster care (Moses, 2006).

### Addressing the Problem

Texas is currently organizing a statewide effort to discuss best practices in working with foster care alumni in higher education on May 26 and 27 at Texas State University-San Marcos. Only five other convening/conferences have taken place nationwide to address this issue including California, Connecticut, Washington, Ohio and Michigan. The learning outcomes/goals for the Texas convening are not yet

finalized, but will include discussion forums for information sharing between institutions.

### Implications for Higher Education

In the executive summary of, "Building a Campus Support Network for Students Emerging from Foster Care," The Student Affairs Council (2009) shared eight important observations for higher education:

1. To ensure student success, it is necessary to provide financial, academic, and emotional/social support.
2. A full-time designated point person is vital for the success of foster youth at the university.
3. Build an advisory committee with contacts across campus, institutionalizing the university's commitment to foster youth.
4. The majority of foster youth support programs are housed in student affairs.
5. Solicit feedback from students to inform programming.
6. Whether or not the university is able to provide a comprehensive scholarship for students aging out of foster care, financial advising is essential.
7. All four-year institutions offer year-round, on-campus housing for foster youth.
8. It is important to integrate foster youth into the university community and not offer too many siloed activities (p. 4)

A basic overall theme stems from these observations - finding support systems for foster care alumni. This student population is unique due to the special circumstances in which these students emerge. A quote from a Student Affairs Leadership Council interview (2009) states,

*“It [working with foster care alumni] definitely requires some flexibility, and I think higher ed institutions, like a lot of institutions, aren’t always comfortable with that. They really like to look at each student the same – every student has the same opportunities and access, which I absolutely respect, but I think in a program like this you’re acknowledging from the beginning that we have a unique population here”* (p. 13)

Student affairs professionals understand the concept of individualized support and should welcome the opportunity and challenge to institutionalize a culture of care when working with foster care alumni. Each student is unique and will face different obstacles. It is important to have a system in place that is prepared to meet these challenges that face the foster care student population.

### *Conclusion*

Collaborations between high schools, community agencies supporting foster youth, and institutions of higher education are essential in moving forward to funnel children aging out of care into college. Student affairs professionals advocate for students who have difficulties finding their way. Foster care alumni represent multiple minorities and some come to college with the weight of abuse and neglect on their shoulders. It is time for higher education to get involved and fight for the future of foster care alumni. For more information on the Texas Convening for Foster Care Alumni, please contact Sheila Bustillos Reynolds at [sr35@txstate.edu](mailto:sr35@txstate.edu).

**- Sheila Bustillos Reynolds**  
Texas State University

COMING SOON FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS:

**Scholarship applications for the  
14th Annual Texas Higher Education  
Law Conference**  
See Pg. 7

We need your help in either applying for or encouraging your graduate students to apply for a scholarship that covers the registration cost of the conference. Applications will be posted soon on the TACUSPA website. For questions contact Jacqueline Hamilton at [Jacqueline.Hamilton@tamucc.edu](mailto:Jacqueline.Hamilton@tamucc.edu)

# 2010 Conferences

## The 14th Annual Texas Higher Education Law Conference March 29 and 30, 2010.

Sponsored by the UNT College of Education and the Center for Higher Education

Co-Sponsored by:  
The Texas Association of College and University Student Personnel Administrators (TACUSPA)



As the premier conference on higher education law in Texas, the 13th Annual Texas Higher Education Law Conference provided college and university professional in the public and private sector and attorneys who advise them the most current information on important developments in such areas as student legal issues, first amendment rights, technology dangers, FERPA and free speech areas to name a few.

### 2010 Conference Partners

- UNT Center for Education Law, Administration and Policy
- North Texas Community College Consortium
- PublicIDentity, Inc.



**FORT WORTH**



**TACUSPA 2010 Conference  
October 3-5, 2010**

# Fall 2009 Conference Review

Faces of the Fall 2009 Conference in El Paso.  
Thanks to everyone who was able to join us!



What a beautiful dinner and presentation dinner setup!



Officers, presenters, and members mingle at the reception.



Our Fellowship Award Winners. Look for their writing contributions in future newsletters!



Say hello to the future of TACUSPA!  
Graduate Assistant Scholarship Award Recipients

The conference went off without a hitch thanks to the hard work of the El Paso staff.



It's all smiles for these high achievers.

Sandi Osters captivating her crowd with best practices for instituting learning outcomes



# First Quarter Financial Summary

		BUDGET	ACTUAL		
<b>CHECKING ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Operations</b>					
	<i>Expenses</i>				
	President	\$3,575.00	\$0.00		
	President-Elect	\$400.00	\$0.00		
	Past President	\$200.00	\$0.00		
	Vice President-Admin	\$275.00	\$149.34		
	Vice President-Mktg&Mbrshp	\$5,760.00	\$500.00		
	Secretary	\$15.00	\$0.00		
	Treasurer	\$1,250.00	\$995.51		
	Dir-DataMgmt&Tech	\$1,000.00	\$239.40		
	Reserve	\$1,000.00	\$0.00		
				\$1,884.25	
	<i>Income</i>				
	Balance as of 9/1/08		\$11,732.28		
	2009 Membership Dues		\$1,940.00		
				\$13,672.28	
					\$11,788.03
<b>Conference</b>					
	<i>Expenses</i>				
	Fall 2009		\$23,782.38		
	Fall 2010		\$85.01		
				\$23,867.39	
	<i>Income</i>				
	Balance as of 9/1/09		\$24,340.87		
	Fall 2009		\$26,055.00		
				\$50,395.87	
					\$26,528.48
<b>Foundation</b>					
	<i>Income</i>				
	Balance as of 9/1/09		\$750.00		
	2009/2010		\$1,499.00		
				\$2,249.00	
					\$2,249.00
<b>Checking Balance</b>					\$40,565.51
<b>BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACCOUNT</b>					
	<i>Income</i>				
	Balance as of 9/1/09		\$32,776.53		
	Interest		\$15.05		
				\$32,791.58	
<b>BIA Balance</b>					\$32,791.58
<b>CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT</b>					
	Three Year CD to Mature 8/2010		\$11,530.34		
	Three Year CD to Mature 8/2011		\$22,107.88		
	Three Year CD to Mature 8/2012		\$21,572.72		
				\$55,210.94	
<b>CD Balance</b>					\$55,210.94
<b>BALANCE</b>					\$128,568.03

- John Kaulfus