

TACUSPA TIMES

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2008

Message from the President...

On behalf of the TACUSPA board, we hope your spring 2008 semester is off to a good start! As you read this, I'm sure you and your campus colleagues are busy implementing innovative programs, conducting staff searches, making ready to attend the conventions of our national professional organizations, addressing the crisis du jour, supporting students to manage the ebb and flow of daily campus life, preparing budgets, and assessing your work to show the impact it has on student learning – and all that was done just last week! If student affairs work is anything, it is diverse and ever changing. But, that's just a couple of the many reasons why we love it!

The TACUSPA board has also been busy at work since our conference last November. Our newest officers have fully assumed their duties, volunteers have been placed into critical leadership roles, and work continues towards making TACUSPA a growing, healthy and productive organization.

Part of our effort has focused on planning our 2008 conferences. Our summer conference, under the leadership of Ms. Linda Contreras Bullock, Assistant Dean of Student Diversity at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, will focus on the ever-important topic of student retention. Using an "institute" format, the sessions will be crafted to allow for more personal interaction and hands-on workshops, and registration will be capped at 50 participants. This TACUSPA Institute will be held June 10-13, and hosted at the University of St. Thomas, located in Houston's beautiful museum district. If your division has made student retention a priority, you will not want to miss our Institute.

Mr. David Rachita, Assistant Dean for Student Life at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, is chairing the planning team for the fall conference. This conference will be held at the historic Hotel Galvez on Galveston Island from October 5-7. Watch the TACUSPA website in February for registration and program details for both conferences.

In this issue, you'll find a report on our joint conference with NASPA and SACSA held in Addison, as well as some photographs from the few fun-filled days we shared together. Also included is a listing of our TACUSPA award recipients. These outstanding professionals, and all the award nominees, are shining stars within our organization.

In closing, please feel free to contact any of the TACUSPA officers should you have a comment, idea or concern. We are here to assist you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephen C. Sutton
TACUSPA President



Dr. Stephen C. Sutton
Vice President of Student Affairs
University of St. Thomas

AWARDS and RECOGNITION

On November 5, 2007, the Texas Association of College and University Student Personnel Administrators honored five very deserving colleagues at our annual conference in Dallas, Texas. The following members were recognized for their outstanding contributions:

Outstanding New Professional Award

Danielle Champagne, University of North Texas

Finalist, Misty Smethers, University of North Texas
Health Science Center

Mid-Level Student Affairs Professional

Mindy Sutton, University of Texas at Tyler

Finalist, Ben Rivers, University of Texas at San Antonio
Health Science Center

Dissertation of the Year Award

Dr. Lisa G. Blazer, University of Texas at San Antonio

Faculty Member of the Year

Dr. Victoria Farrar-Myers, University of Texas at Arlington

Distinguished Service Award

Rusty Jergins, Tarleton St. University

Finalist, Dr. Richard Nicholas, Texas Woman's University



Dr. Lisa G. Blazer, Danielle Champagne, Rusty Jergins, Dr. Victoria Farrar-Myers, Mindy Sutton



Rusty Jerkins & Dr. Wanda Mercer

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the winners and to thank the Awards and Recognition Committee for 2007. - John Kaulfus



John Kaulfus, Treasurer
Associate Dean of Students
The University of Texas
at San Antonio

Committee Members:

John Kaulfus – Chair, University of Texas at San Antonio

Ankita Rakhe – Trinity University

Charlin Jones – University of Texas at San Antonio

Dana L. Moore – Tarleton State University

David Rachita – University of Houston, Clear Lake

Dr. Deborah Hebert – Angelo State University

Dr. Elizabeth With – University of North Texas

Karen Engebrecht – Texas A&M University, Kingsville

Linda Bullock – University of Houston, Clear Lake

Lisa Perez – Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi

SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE



Jennifer Edwards, Ed.D, a proud TACUSPA member, has inspired and energized us as we learned from her examples of leadership, innovation, and pure determination at annual TACUSPA conferences. At the age of 25, she has already accomplished more than many would hope to achieve in a career. She recently earned a doctorate in Educational Leadership: Higher Education Executive Leadership from Sam Houston State University. According to information from the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, she is the youngest graduate from the university's College of Education. Last fall, Edwards received the TACUSPA Research Development Grant, which allowed her to expand her dissertation study to include four additional colleges and universities in Texas.

Her amazing journey began as Resident Assistant at Stephen F. Austin University where she served as a Peer Mentor for over 38 Residents and planned programs for over 800 residents. She continued at Stephen F. Austin as a Graduate Assistant and created a campus wide volunteer program, implemented and maintained a co-curricular transcript program, constructed the Student Handbook, served on the Multicultural Center Advisory Board, and planned programs for the Multicultural Center. Following, Edwards accepted a position as Coordinator of Multicultural and International Student Services at Sam Houston State University. She took on many exciting initiatives and the creation of new programs including the Multicultural Awareness Certification Program for the SHSU Community, the state of Texas' First Diversity Leadership Conference for Students, the Diversity Leadership Council, and the Multicultural Ambassadors Program, to name a few.

"Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives."

Willa A. Foster

Dr. Edwards is currently an Assistant Professor of Communication Studies at Tarleton State University. Her goals in the next few years are to work towards receiving tenure and furthering her research on millennial college students and intercultural communication. In the next 20 - 30 years, she hopes to progress through the academic and administrative ranks and become president of a community college or four-year university. Dr. Jennifer Edwards, a TACUSPA "Trail Blazer", is one to keep your eye on as her professional career continues to develop and grow. Jennifer, congratulations on your accomplishments!

Awards as a student and professional in Student Affairs:

National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (2006). Student Conference Scholarship Recipient

MOSAIC Multicultural Award (2006). American College Unions International Region 12

President's Employee Scholarship (2003-2006). Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX

Honoree. (2005). Adopt a Heart Service Organization, Huntsville, TX

Honoree. (2005) Outstanding African-American Graduate of Carthage High School. Carthage, TX

Outstanding Woman of SHSU Honoree. (2005). "Tribute to the Women at SHSU", Talented Tenth Organization, Huntsville, TX

Outstanding Professional Staff Member Finalist. (2004). Sam Houston State University

FALL 2007 TACUSPA / SACSA / NASPA Conference

Over 480 people attended the Fall 2007 TACUSPA joint conference with SACSA and NASPA in Addison, Texas! The keynote speakers included Greg Lukianoff of FIRE and Gary Pavela of the University of Maryland. A variety of programs were offered which included topics on diversity, academic success, the global community and much more! Conference attendees had much to do as the evening was also filled with receptions, karaoke, the trolley dine-around, and Dave and Busters. However, such a great conference would not have been possible without the help of the conference volunteers! I would like to thank all of the volunteers for pitching in and helping out. Finally, I hope everyone enjoyed the conference and I look forward to seeing you next year!

Misty Smethers



Special Thanks to the following committee members:

Lori Fielding, Amy Gamble, Elizabeth Flash, Amber Dean, Seth Ressler, Idella Glenn, Dei Allard, Jay Lambert, Dean Smedley, Jamie Williams, Rynn Ziller, Rusty Guill, Andrew Wilson, Susan Rhody, Julie Murphy, Jeni Reese, Taryn Ozuna, Marcus Silver, Kristy Vienne, Becky Howard, Holly Rodden, Jon Davis, Andy Axson, Cody Arvidson, Susie Quintana, and Chiana Diggs.



Misty Smethers, Conference Chair
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Questions or Comments?

**Feel free to contact either of
us with your suggestions!**

Do you crave experience and opportunities for professional growth, but find yourself dipping into empty pockets to finance your goals? Then the TACUSPA Graduate Scholarship is your outlet for success! As a former graduate scholarship recipient, I have attended workshops on grant writing, professional networking, legal issues in higher education, writing for publication, and assessment. Every one of these TACUSPA seminars were vital supplements to my studies in the Student Affairs program.

Not only is it important for you to apply, but is it equally important for you to encourage others to do the same. Student Affairs thrives on relationships and continuing education. The TACUSPA conference provides the perfect environment for building lasting professional contacts, as well as scholarships to help finance your career journey. I also challenge professionals who advise, mentor, teach, or supervise graduate students to encourage those individuals to take advantage of this amazing opportunity.

Sincerely,

Sheila Bustillos

Graduate Research Assistant

For information about Graduate Student Scholarships please contact: Alicia Huppe at ahuppe@ccc.edu.

“Shared leadership... is less like a an orchestra, where the conductor is always in charge, and more like a jazz band, where leadership is passed around ... depending on what the music demands at the moment and who feels most moved by the spirit to express the music.” Schlechy 2001