

SCCPA News



South Carolina College
Personnel Association

November 2011

Fall 2011 SCCPA Conference Wrap Up

Apple core, nuclear power plant and Pilates were the three items **Dr. Laura Dean** used to describe assessment at the core of Student Affairs practice during her keynote speech at the Annual Conference held October 20-21. The conference theme, "*Connecting at the Core*", related to the location held at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, as well as Dr. Dean's keynote speech on assessment and the CAS Standards.

The Annual Conference was opened with a warm welcome by **Dr. Dennis Pruitt**, Vice President for Student Affairs, University of South Carolina. Attendees included more than 130 professionals and students representing 24 schools across the state. Graduate students, undergraduates, faculty and staff came together to learn from each other in 27 educational sessions, including featured sessions: *Meeting of the Minds: Colloquium of Higher Education Faculty*; *Institutional Highlights: Women's Colleges* led by **Dr. Caroline Whitson**, President of Columbia College; and three professional development tracks to help professionals look to the next steps in their careers.

"The conference was a great opportunity for our state [professionals] to connect at the core and recognize the great accomplishments of our colleagues," Jeff Brown, SCCPA President.

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2011 SCCPA Awards Recipients

Joseph O. Nixon Award for Chief Student Affairs Officer

Dr. Steve Terry
Coker College

Clarice W. Johnson Outstanding Professional Award

Dr. Robyn Agnew
Erskine College

Walter T. Cox New Professional Award

Matthew Hammett
Wofford College

Carol Edens-Epps Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Kimberly Yeomans
University of South Carolina

Joseph E. Heyward Humanitarian Award

Charles Lowman
University of South Carolina

Paul P. Fidler Bridge Builder Award

Kelly Imbert Eifert
University of South Carolina

SCCPA Support Staff Award

Karen Erickson
Clemson University

Charles Witten Service Award

Amy Gamble
Clemson University

Programming for Large Public Institution Award

Greek Leadership Institute
College of Charleston

Hilda F. Owens Contribution to Knowledge in the Field Award

Dr. Wade Livingston
Clemson University

Congratulations to all of the awards recipients!

The awards competition is coordinated by
Nick Shrader
SCCPA Awards Chair
Columbia College

Congratulations Rebecca Atkinson on a wonderful fall conference!

Women Zoom Ahead of Men in College

By WAYNE WASHINGTON

[...] Dennis Pruitt, USC's vice president for student affairs, said male college students at USC, and elsewhere, are not seizing academic and leadership opportunities with the same zeal as female students.

Higher-education officials began discussing the trend about five years ago, but they have not found a way to reverse it. Their goal is clear. "We want engaged male students," Pruitt said. "We want more participation. We want them to embrace their responsibilities more seriously."

But collectively, female students are racing ahead of men in terms of academic per-

formance, leadership and honors.

[...]Each year at USC, for example, 25 to 35 seniors are honored with an "Outstanding Senior Award" for their achievements in college.

In 2010, 77 percent of the recipients were women. In 2009, 67.5 percent of the recipients were women. And in 2008, 78.6 percent of those honored were women.

[...]Colleges are trying to cope, remolding their young men into better students.

USC, for example, has established various leadership program that officials expect to

give male and female students opportunities to excel. The university also is working on a proposal that could lead to a minor in leadership studies.

To foster the academic careers of its African-American male students, Midlands Tech encourages participation in its African-American Male Leadership Institute and the Call Me Mister program, set up to encourage more black men to consider teaching as a career.

Read more here: <http://www.thestate.com/2011/12/25/2091183/women-zoom-ahead-of-men-in-college.html#storylink=cpy>

Special points of interest:

Where does your college freshmen class come from? Check out this website to view an interactive map for the freshmen class of 2010:

<http://chronicle.com/article/Where-Does-Your-Freshman-Class/129547/#id=218742>

SCCPA Conference Wrap Up (continued from page 1)

Some fun conference highlights included the reprise of the candy bar where participants could trick-or-treat their childhood favorite candies and fruits and a laid back reception held on the newly redecorated lounge of the Russell House, USC's Student Union.

Conference participants were also invited to the SC-NASPA social held Thursday evening at Pearlz restaurant in The Vista. The social promoted the SC-NASPA Mentoring program led by College of Charleston's Vice President, **Dr. Jeri Cabot**. SC-NASPA also sponsored Dr.

Dean's keynote.

The conference concluded with a wonderful awards luncheon decorated with fall mums, pumpkins and gourds. **Nick Shrader**, Columbia College, announced award winners and thanked the entire organization for the nominations the Awards Committee received. "The conference was a great opportunity for our state [professionals] to connect at the core and recognize the great accomplishments of our colleagues," **Jeff Brown**, SCCPA President. **Jason Umfress**, SCCPA President-

Elect, announced the Spring Drive-In conference will be held at Coker College hosted by **April Palmer**, Coker College, and **Paul Gargas**, USC-Upstate. The conference theme will kick off a three-year best practices series centered on various functional areas.

A special thank you to the conference planning committee members: **Danielle Bostick**, USC-Upstate; **Whitney Comer**, Coast Carolina; **Tyler Gailey**, USC-Columbia; **Ed Short**, College of Charleston; **Brian Stuart**, Clemson University; **Jason Umfress**, Coker College.

National Higher Education News: Federal Case Over Banning a Student's Therapy Dog Illustrates Thicket of Disability Rules *By Sara Lipka*

For denying a student permission to live in campus housing with her therapy dog, the federal government **has charged** the University of Nebraska at Kearney and five of its administrators with violations of the Fair Housing Act.

The student, who is not named in a complaint filed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development late last month, enrolled at the university in August 2010 and registered with its disability-services office, disclosing two conditions: depression and anxiety. She requested that campus officials let her therapy animal, a four-pound miniature pinscher named Butch, live with her in the University Heights apartments. (University policy allows only fish, service animals, and hall directors' cats or dogs in campus housing.)

The student submitted a note from her nurse and signed a release for the campus counseling center to obtain her medical records, but, according to the complaint, administrators said she did not follow the university's psychological-documentation guidelines, which ask for a diagnosis; a treatment plan, including prescribed medication; a clinical summary of limitations; and a rationale for each requested accommodation.

After administrators denied the student's request, she suffered physical and emotional distress, including anxiety attacks, and ultimately withdrew from the university in October of 2010, the complaint says.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development determined that the university had discriminated against the stu-

dent by requiring "detailed disability information that goes beyond what is needed to review a request for reasonable accommodation in housing."

Administrators violated the federal Fair Housing Act by "illegally inquiring into the nature and severity" of the student's disability as well as by "refusing to make a reasonable accommodation to modify their no-pet policy," the department said.

The university denies the allegations, said Curtis K. Carlson, vice chancellor for university relations. "It's a matter we will be challenging."

Access the full story here:

<http://chronicle.com/article/Federal-Case-Over-Banning-a/129349/> 10/31/11

Fun Fact:

Approximately 80% of college students change their major at least once during their college career. In fact on average, college students change their major three times until they are able to settle on a major they really enjoy.

Of Interest:

- **Send Newsletter information to Kara Ferguson at kferguson@uscupstate.edu**
- Stay connected with us at www.sccpaweb.org
- **Plan now for the 2012 ACPA Conference in Louisville KY March 24-28, 2011. Early Bird registration ends January 31, 2012. More information can be found at <http://convention.mvacpa.org/>**