



Developments



**Student Affairs in
Higher Education**

Spring 2008
Volume 20 Issue 1

A semi-annual publication of the Department of Student Affairs in
Higher Education for SPS/SAHE alumni and friends.

Distinguished Alumni Award Winner

Dr. Becky L. Verzinski, Class of 1994

The SAHE Department is pleased to announce **Dr. Becky L. Verzinski** as the recipient of the **Distinguished Alumni Award for 2008**. Becky is a 1994 graduate of SAHE who went on to earn her doctorate at Morgan State University. She is currently working at Towson University (MD) in the Department of Housing & Residence Life as an Assistant Director. She has also worked at SUNY Stony Brook (NY). Becky's accomplishments are not limited to her fine work at Towson University and Stony Brook where, at both institutions, she has been recognized for her excellence in promoting community and student learning as well as embracing diversity and multicultural programming. Becky's career has also been highlighted by many service and leadership activities, most notably as a faculty member in the mid-Atlantic Regional Entry-Level Institute, conference co-chair for MACUHO, and MCPA conference co-chair.



The award selection committee (comprised of faculty, students, and alumni) reviewed nomination materials from five fine individuals, all of whom have exceptional accomplishments in and contributions to the student affairs profession. The selection committee noted Becky's "significant professional involvement and recognition". One committee member's comment summed up Becky's nomination in this way: "In a very tight crop of nominees, this individual's commitment to diversity, life long learning, and multifaceted collection of presentations at all levels, I believe, qualifies her for this award."

The SAHE Distinguished Alumni Award was created to acknowledge an alumnus of the SAHE department whose experiences and accomplishments as a student affairs professional significantly reflect the standards and values of the SPS program/SAHE department. Previous recipients include Bob Gatti ('78) of Otterbein College (OH) and Peter C. Groenendyk ('94) of the University of Memphis (TN).

The SAHE Department recognized Becky at the 2008 ACPA Convention (Atlanta, GA) during our annual "IUP Alumni & Friends Reception" on Monday, March 31.

Editor: Chris Lemasters, '08
c.g.lemasters@iup.edu
724-357-2107

Advisor: Dr. John Mueller
John.Mueller@iup.edu
724-357-4541

If you need more information from SAHE please contact our graduate students at 724-357-2107 or via email at:

Jamie Guilford, GA for Marketing and Recruitment: j.k.guilford@iup.edu

Ryan Cunningham, GA for Administration:
r.s.Cunningham@iup.edu

Inside...

- Page 2 -

Farewell Thoughts

- Page 3 -

Reflections On Dr. L

- Page 4 -

Trivia

ASD Executive Board
Convention

- Page 5 -

Faculty Search Complete

- Page 6 -

Scholar Award
SAHE Alum's First Book
Class of '98 Reunion

- Page 7 -

Alumni Updates
Awards & Accolades



Farewell Thoughts

by Dr. Ron Lunardini

By the time you read this, the students' countdown to graduation, and mine to retirement, will be nearly completed. That reality is simultaneously exciting and frightening, sweet and bitter. Our graduates are talking about how quickly their two years went by – and I'm thinking about how rapidly nearly four decades disappeared.

I began my professional career teaching mathematics at Fox Chapel High School in Pittsburgh, and end it now after 36 years in student affairs and/or SAHE at IUP. While many things have changed over those years, many have not. I still enjoy mathematics (to the chagrin of my students and to the puzzlement of my faculty colleagues); I'm still using the same Cross Pen set that Don McPherson gave me in 1969; I'm still asked, "Why didn't you use that voice for a career in radio?"; and I'm still energized through working with the fine students and colleagues I've found at IUP and through associational activities.

Despite so many years at IUP, it is interesting for me to note that my memories of them are almost exclusively positive. While undoubtedly there were negative aspects of specific problem situations over the years, those memories are dim. Instead, I'm touched by thoughts of bright young hall counselors in the 1970's (later RA's and now CA's), some of whom maintain contact with me to this day. Similarly, I have very fond memories of fine students with whom I worked in EOP, of student leaders from the Activities Board (The Entertainment Network) and Concert Committees, Student Government, IFC/Panhel/PanHellenic, the Black Emphasis Committee and the hockey teams and fraternities I have advised.

In addition to students, I feel quite privileged to have enjoyed wonderful relationships with many talented student affairs, SAHE and other IUP colleagues – from my earliest days working directly with Ron Thomas, Don McPherson, Jack Frank, Sherry Kuckuck, Jim Laughlin, and, of course, S. Trevor Hadley; with Al Novels & Carolyn Wilkie in EOP; with my SA&O 'dream team' of the 80's (Terry Appolonia, Frank DeStefano & Howard Wray – all SAHE alums); to the truly fine faculty and administrative colleagues I have enjoyed campus-wide, but especially in SAHE – Linda Hall, Holley Belch, and John Mueller now and which previously included Dave DeCoster and Ron Thomas. The alumni who recognize these names understand just how fortunate I've been to have such wonderful colleagues throughout my career. They probably also realize why some alumni complained that we spoiled them, thinking that they could find the same fun, nourishing, and professional environments wherever they went.

I have many vivid memories of running the Governor's Quad, housing 1300 students in the '70's, and of all the unique situations that Student Activities & Organizations presented in the '80's. However, a common thread throughout those years and positions, just like now, are memories related to my associations with our SPS/SAHE program. Teaching one SPS course in the 1970's (which happened to include the parent of a current student) was a humbling and challenging endeavor; supervising SPS/SAHE GA's throughout my practitioner days was a consistently positive experience; and teaching in and/or leading the SAHE program since 1991 has been a most demanding and satisfying professional activity. These involvements afforded me the privilege to get to know very fine people whom I watched turn from eager students into quality professionals, and whose careers I've been able to track with pride.

The knowledge that I've personally had some small impact on helping students to become the fine professionals that they are, and the mutual respect and friendship which I have enjoyed with you all over these many years is indeed satisfying and fulfilling for me. One comment that various SPS/SAHE students have made to me over the years continues to bring me joy – that being, I not only taught them about student affairs, but I also modeled for them the type of professional they hoped to become. What could be more affirming?

As my career ends and I look toward more time for family, travel, golf, and leisure, I will continue to be nourished by the wonderful relationships that I have enjoyed with colleagues and students. I leave knowing that I've always given my best efforts and have tried to value and respect each and every human being with whom I've been in contact. I also leave believing that SAHE is in fine shape, positioned with excellent faculty to continue our honorable work, with fine students for whom \$1M in assistantship support exists annually, and a national reputation that continues to be shaped positively by the outstanding work performed by SAHE alumni. That's pretty good stuff!

Thank you for all of your support and friendship throughout these many years. I'll probably not be on the SAHE listserv anymore, but I'd still appreciate hearing from SPS/SAHE friends and colleagues. I expect to receive email through lunar@auxmail.iup.edu, or you can reach me at 250 N. 12th St, Indiana, PA 15701 or RLunardini@gmail.com. By the way, if you know anyone who needs voiceover work, maybe I can turn this voice into a new career after all.

Warmest regards, always.

RL



Reflections by Current SAHE Students on Dr. Lunardini

Intro written by Sara Barnett, Class of '08

With more than 35 years of service to Indiana University of Pennsylvania it's hard to believe that a living legend such as Dr. Lunardini could possibly uncover something else to do. What else could be left after supervising 48 undergraduates in the Governor's Quad, then moving to serve as the Assistant Director of Educational Opportunity Program, then moving to the Director of Student Activities and Organizations and then into his most recent role in the Student Affairs in Higher Education program. A leisurely game of golf, saving a forest, or even visiting his family may hopefully provide a much needed break from an otherwise eventful professional life.

Dr. Lunardini has touched more lives in his career at IUP than one could ever imagine. Gladys Bronwyn Stern stated it best, that "Silent gratitude isn't much use to anyone." With that being said we Thank You Dr. Lunardini for every student whose life you have impacted, for every colleague you have mentored, but most importantly for your generosity towards every person. Thank You from the bottom of our hearts.



"Sensitive, Committed, Intelligent are the three words that come to mind when you say Dr. Lunardini. He has been an outstanding role model and I only strive to be the professional he is." Chad Jurica, Class of '09

"What is there to say about Dr. Lunardini that no one has said yet? Not much, except what comes easily from my heart. My first interaction with Lunar was one that I had never had before. His interest in me and my life story was unexpected and touching. He allowed me to easily open up to him. Since then, Lunar has always been there for me when I needed to chat about something. Both professionally and personally, he has been an amazing mentor. He reminds me everyday that there is hope for men to be wonderful, caring and compassionate human beings. He is a wonderful role model. I will miss him immensely and will continue to love him a lot." Faina Bukher, Class of '08

"Dr. Lunardini is an amazing faculty member, mentor, scholar and 'Dad' for all of us. He is a wonderful teacher who really cares about student learning. He is a great mentor who give us guidance when needed. He is a great scholar who is closely connected with the profession. He is everyone's dad and really takes the time to get to know all of us and he always create a welcoming environment for all of us to share our lives with him. It is my honor to have been with him in the past two years to learn from and to work with." Gerald Tang, Class of '08



"Knowing that Dr. Lunardini retires the same year I graduate is like a bitter-sweet ending to an epic novel. You wish his legacy will live on. You wish that others could enjoy his teaching as much as you did. You realize that there is no better professor than one with as much empathy and warmth as Dr. Lunardini. Knowing all of this, however, makes me realize the gifts he has given our class over the past two years. I believe his greatness will live on, just as much as I believe in Dr. Lunardini as a professor." Kate Cook, Class of '08

"From the moment I met Dr. Lunardini, I knew I would be happy here. His smiling face conveyed his warmth, caring, and dedication to the program and institution. He is the heart of SAHE - we will all miss him!"

Emily Tamosauskas, Class of '08

"Lunar is an amazing and wonderful person and there is not enough time or paper for me to share all the great things about him. If it wasn't for Lunar I would not be where I am today. I did my faculty interview with him a few weeks before visitation and I knew when I left that this is where I wanted to be and it was because of him. Lunar is supportive of all SAHE students, he is always there to listen and is willing to help with any problem you have. He is a great man and I am honored to have him as part of my life." John Mayo, Class of '08

"Dr. Lunardini's compassion and sincerity shines through everything he does. He is a man who truly and deeply cares about this program and about each person in it. I was blessed to have been able to know him and learn from him." Katie Bean, Class of '08

"There has always been one moment that has stuck out in my mind when I think about Dr. Lunardini. Two years ago, I sat down with him during the SAHE interview weekend and told him why I wanted to become a Student Affairs professional. Although I tried to hide it best I could, I know he could see how nervous I was. Later in the day he came up to me and gave me that look and said, "I will be seeing you again soon." I had to walk away so I didn't cry right in front of him! His words that day renewed my faith that everything happens for a reason and that I am capable of much more than I realize." Mary Miller, Class of '08



"Dr. Lunardini's loyalty to students, IUP, the SAHE program and the field of student affairs is inspiring. It has shown me that I can be in student affairs "for the long haul", and I will always appreciate that about him." Ruben Henao, Class of '09



Trivial Pursuit, The Dr. Ron Lunardini Edition

1. What year was Dr. Lunardini the president of IUP's Student Government Association?
2. What PCPA award is named after "Ron Lunardini"?
3. What is his favorite piece of technology?
4. What year did he become chair of the SAHE department?
5. How many children does Dr. Lunardini have?
6. What course did Dr. Lunardini create?
7. What did his fellow junior high school students wear to surprise him on Ron Lunardini Day (1962)?
8. What famous medical scientist is Dr. Lunardini pictured with while getting a vaccine shot as a child?
9. What phrase does Dr. Lunardini typically say when he is looking for the correct answer?
10. What "high" risk activity has Dr. Lunardini engaged in at least once in his life?

*Answers on the bottom of page 6

New ASD Executive Board Announced!!!!

President— Erin Schuetz

VP of Programming—Stanley Horton

VP of Administration— Ryan Cunningham

VP of Professional Development—Morgan Rizzardi

VP of Public Relations— Mallory Bower



Alumni Reception in Atlanta

The IUP Alumni and Friends reception was held this year at the ACPA Convention in Atlanta. The event recognized Dr. Becky Verzinski ('94) as the Distinguished Alumni Award winner and Dr. Raechele Pope ('81) as IUP's first ever College of Education and Educational Technology Alumni Scholar award winner. The event also celebrated the career of Dr. Ron Lunardini with alumni, current students, and faculty members sharing their favorite memories of Dr. Lunardini. Congratulations to all who presented at NASPA and ACPA and we look forward to seeing you at next year's reception at ACPA in Washington, D.C.



Faculty Search Successfully Completed



The Department of Student Affairs in Higher Education is extremely pleased to announce that we have successfully completed our search for the faculty position which began last fall. The position of Associate Professor has been offered to and accepted by **Dr. John Wesley Lowery** of Oklahoma State University.

Dr. John Wesley Lowery is Associate Professor in the School of Educational Studies at the Oklahoma State University and coordinates the college student affairs program and higher education programs. He previously served on the faculty at the University of South Carolina where he also coordinated the Higher Education and Student Affairs Program. He earned his doctorate at Bowling Green State University in Higher Education Administration. While at BGSU, Dr. Lowery served in a variety of roles including Editorial Assistant for *About Campus* and Visiting Instructor for BGSU's College Student Personnel Program. Before beginning his doctoral work in 1996, he was Director of Residence Life at Adrian College in Michigan and University Judicial Administrator at Washington University in St. Louis.

Dr. Lowery has been very active in professional associations. He served as ASJA's CAS Director for five years. He served as Board of Directors for both NASPA (2002-2004) and ASJA (1996-1999). He has previously chaired the ASJA's Legislative Issues and Resolutions Committees as well as co-chairing the Interassociation Task Force on the National Baseline Study on Campus Sexual Assault. Dr. Lowery also previously served on the Core Council on Outreach and Advocacy for the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) and on the directorate body of Commission 15: Campus Judicial Affairs and Legal Issues of ACPA.

Dr. Lowery has a Masters degree in student personnel services from the University of South Carolina and his undergraduate degree in religious studies is from the University of Virginia. He is a frequent speaker and author on topics related to student affairs and higher education, particularly legislative issues and student judicial affairs. In recent years, Dr. Lowery has presented at numerous national and regional conferences including, the American College Personnel Association Convention, the Association for Student Judicial Affairs Conference, Donald D. Gehring Academy for Student Conduct Administration, the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Conference, NASPA/Stetson Student Affairs Law & Policy Conference, the Stetson University Law and Higher Education Conference, and the University of Vermont's Legal Issues in Higher Education Conference.

Dr. Lowery currently serves on the Board of Contributors for *About Campus*. In 2005, he co-edited a special issue of the *NASPA Journal* on legal issues and judicial affairs. In addition, Dr. Lowery has served as a Department Editor for *About Campus*, on the Editorial Board of the *NASPA Journal*, as a reviewer for the *College Student Affairs Journal*, and as Associate Editor of *Synthesis: Law and Policy in Higher Education*. He is the author of numerous articles and book chapters.

Over his career, Dr. Lowery has been honored by several professional organizations. In 2007, he was recognized by the Higher Education Administration doctoral program at Bowling Green State University as the alumnus of year in "recognition of outstanding contributions to the profession through teaching, research, and service." At the 2007 Association for Student Judicial Affairs Conference, he received the D. Parker Young Award for "outstanding ongoing scholarly research contributions to the fields of higher education and student judicial affairs." At the American College Personnel Association's 2005 meeting, he received the Tracy R. Teele Memorial Award from the Commission on Campus Judicial Affairs and Legal Issues for "outstanding contributions to the area of judicial affairs and legal issues." The University of South Carolina Student Personnel Association recognized his contributions in the classroom awarding him the Faculty Member of the Year Award in 2006, an award which he had previously won in 2004 and 2001.

Dr. Lowery will start in August of 2008. Students, faculty, and alumni are excited to work with him in writing the next chapter in SAHE's history!



SPA/SAHE Alum Wins First-Ever Scholar Award!



The Department of Student Affairs in Higher Education is extremely proud to announce that Dr. Raechele L. Pope ('81) is one of two recipients of IUP's College of Education and Educational Technology Alumni Scholar award. This year is the first year this award has been presented to alumnus of the college.

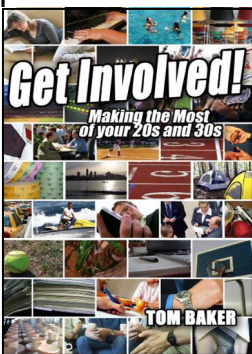
Raechele, a 1996 recipient of IUP's "Distinguished Alumni" award, is a 1979 graduate of the Political Science department and a 1981 graduate of the Student Personnel Services program (now SAHE). Since leaving IUP she gained practitioner experience at Illinois State University, the University of Iowa, and the University of Massachusetts (where she earned her doctorate). From UMass, she moved into her first faculty position at Teachers College (Columbia University), followed by her current faculty role at the University at Buffalo.

Throughout her twenty-seven year career, Raechele Pope has become one of the most passionate, articulate and visible champions of multiculturalism in higher education. Early in her career, shortly after leaving IUP, Raechele was on the national scene discussing these issues at conventions and at invited speaking engagements and consultations. Raechele's scholarly work now includes over twenty-five publications including a book and numerous book chapters, refereed articles, and book reviews as well as dozens of national presentations, speeches, and consultations. Her reputation as a scholar has lead to service on a variety of editorial boards, think tanks, task groups, and panels with some of our profession's most significant scholars such as Alexander Astin, Marcia Baxter-Magolda, George Kuh, Nancy Evans, Vasti Torres, and Susan Komives. The impact of Raechele Pope's work on the student affairs profession is also evident in numerous awards she has received.

The College of Education and Educational Technology can take great pride in producing one of the finest scholars in the student affairs profession. The SAHE faculty, in their letter of nomination, affirmed that "presenting Dr. Raechele L. Pope with the Alumni Scholar Award not only acknowledges her substantial impact on the profession but also adds to the prestige of the award itself." Congratulations, Raechele!

IUP SAHE GRAD RELEASES FIRST BOOK

Tom Baker's first book, **Get Involved! Making the Most of Your 20s and 30s** focuses on continuing involvement after graduation



Tom Baker, a 2005 graduate of the Student Affairs in Higher Education graduate program at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, has authored his inaugural book entitled, "Get Involved! Making the Most of Your 20s and 30s". Get Involved! Making the Most of Your 20s and 30s is inspiring a generation to become more engaged and motivates readers with descriptions of countless ways in which everyone can make a difference. There is something for all readers in this unique and powerful book. The cost of the book is \$15 and can be purchased via his company website,

www.BakerLeadership.com.

The sample cover of Tom Baker's ('05) first book.

Special Announcement

Attention SAHE Class of 1998— Return to IUP June 28/29 to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of our graduation from the program. The alumni office is making arrangements for discounted hotel rooms and a group dinner for us on Saturday. For more information, contact Megan Mangefrida: mcm1202@yahoo.com or Missy (Breitkreutz) Walsh: mwalsh@rosemont.edu



Alumni Updates

Professional Updates

Laura (Martin) McCarthy ('06) is now a Resident Director at Wentworth Institute of Technology and is co-chairing the New England Student Affairs Placement Conference.

Kate Musselman ('06) accepted a job as the new Regional Advisor for Education Abroad Programs at UC Santa Barbara.

Lynn Burke ('05) was promoted to Assistant Director of Residence Life and will also serve as the Women's Center Advisor at Gettysburg College.

Ginny Naglic ('05) is now a Career Specialist at Reading Area Community College.

Trung Nguyen ('05) is now the Assistant Director of Orientation at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island.

Tracy (Chverchko) Anderson ('03) accepted the position of J-I Advisor in the Office of International Affairs at IUP.

Peter Trentacoste ('00) was appointed Director of University Housing at Northern Kentucky University and was also invited to teach an online webcourse titled "Contemporary Technology Issues for Student Affairs Professionals."

Jeff Foster ('99) was promoted to Associate Dean of College Life at Gettysburg University.

Richel Perretti ('99) is now the Contracts Coordinator in the Risk Management Office at Penn State.

Lawrence Walsh ('98) accepted the position of Senior Associate Director of Admissions at West Chester University.

Annemarie Vaccaro, Ph.D. ('96) will join the College Student Personnel program at the University of Rhode Island as a tenure track Assistant Professor.

Personal Updates

Libby Witter Jakubowski ('03) had a baby girl named Isabel Caroline Jakubowski on August 22, 2007.

Lisa Saita ('00) is engaged to Keith Gonsisko and will be getting married on November 15, 2008.

Dawn (Tatters-Ford) Backos ('98) and her husband Jerry, welcomed a baby daughter Natalia in June.

Holly (Reynolds) Mason ('98) married James Mason on December 29, 2007.

Nancy (Kuhn) Styers ('98) and her husband Jeffrey, welcomed their daughter, Juliette Claire Styers, on November 20, 2007.

Rebecca (Bruning) Maguda ('97) and her husband had a little girl Carolyn Anne Maguda on September 21, 2007.

Awards & Accomplishments

Michelle Marchand ('08) and **Chrissy Smith ('08)** were both presented the Nancy Newkerk Award. The Nancy Newkerk scholarship is given to the second year student(s) who demonstrate(s) outstanding contributions to student affairs activities including students, the SAHE program, the institutions they have interacted with and the community. Nancy Newkerk was once again gracious enough to attend the program and share her experiences in student affairs with the attendees.

Sandra Alef ('07) is the first WOW award recipient at the University of Toledo. Sandra was recognized for her efforts with the Student Affairs Homecoming Parade float. The Student Affairs WOW Award recognizes those professionals who have gone above and beyond the set expectations and have demonstrated student centeredness in their position.

Tonya Anthony ('03) was awarded the Pennsylvania Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (PASFAA) Leadership Award at the 2007 Conference held in October. This award is given to someone who has provided outstanding leadership to PASFAA in the preceding year.



2008 Nancy Newkerk winners with Ms. Newkerk and the SAHE faculty



Sandra Alef ('07) presented with the WOW award.



Student Affairs in Higher Education
 Indiana University of Pennsylvania
 206 Stouffer Hall
 Indiana, PA 15705-1087

4005245702

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Permit No. 198
 Indiana, PA 15701

Supporting SAHE

Financial Contributions:

\$ _____ to the **Nancy Newkerk Scholarship** – Awarded to a second-year master’s student whose contributions during the first year of their program demonstrated the greatest promise for the profession of student affairs. **(Acct # 0374)**

\$ _____ to the **Hadley Outstanding Student** - established to recognize outstanding 2nd year students on the basis of academic performance and professional involvement in the SAHE program. **(Acct #0140)**

\$ _____ to the **SAHE Development Fund**– Supports the needs of the SAHE program that are not covered by funds from the University (e.g., student support for professional development activities, research support to students, Outstanding Scholar Award, Outstanding SAHE Alumni award). **(Acct # 4647)**

*Contributions are tax deductible, please make your check payable to :
 Foundation for IUP - Acct # _____*

Nominations

I would like to nominate the following individuals to receive information about the SAHE program:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

(Please feel free to attach additional names and addresses)