



# DEVELOPMENTS

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



Student Affairs in Higher Education

Spring 2009  
Volume 22 Issue 1

## 2009 RONALD LUNARDINI DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD WINNER

### Dr. Kevin W. Bailey, Class of 1990

IUP's Department of Student Affairs in Higher Education is pleased to announce **Dr. Kevin W. Bailey** as the recipient of the **Ronald Lunardini Distinguished Alumni Award for 2009**. Bailey is a 1990 graduate of SAHE who went on to earn his doctorate at Bowling Green State University. He is currently the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs at Tulane University. His professional experience also includes positions at Millersville University, Bowling Green State University, and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.



Bailey's accomplishments go beyond his fine work as a practitioner. He has done frequent consultations, been honored more than a dozen times, has presented and published numerous scholarly pieces, and is an active leader in many professional associations including ACPA, NASPA, ASJA and SACSA. Most prominent in the letters of nomination and support for Kevin were the following: his leadership in navigating Tulane University through Hurricane Katrina; his loyalty to SAHE by returning each fall to speak in our Management class; and his service to ACPA as Program Chair for the 2004 convention and as Director of Membership Development and of Membership Services and Interests.

The award selection committee (comprised of faculty, students, and alumni) reviewed nomination materials from several fine individuals, all of whom have exceptional accomplishments in and contributions to the student affairs profession. The selection committee noted how one nominator described Kevin as one of SAHE's "most loyal alum." In her review of Kevin's nomination, one of the selection committee members affirmed, "Kevin is a constant mentor to future generations of student affairs professionals; through this mentoring, he has positively influenced the student affairs work being done at campuses across the country."

The Ronald Lunardini Distinguished Alumni Award, begun in 2006, 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. In 2008, in recognition of Ron Lunardini's 37 years of service to IUP (18 as a SAHE faculty member), the award title was changed to bear his name. Previous recipients include: **2006**-Bob Gatti ('78), **2007**-Peter C. Groenendyk ('94), and **2008**-Becky L. Verzinski ('94).

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Please let us know what you think about this semester's Developments. Your feedback and suggestions are welcome and greatly appreciated.

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## End of the Year Reflections

Submitted by Dr. Linda Hall

Greetings from SAHE!

We are well into the Spring semester and before we know it, there will be 26 new alumni of our program. Their mini-resumes are on our newly designed web page, and I hope you will be of assistance in sharing job opportunities during this tough economic time which appears to be affecting the job market in student affairs and higher education generally. They are reasonably concerned and your support will be very much appreciated.

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying Spring. In addition to our routine activities in the department, for us spring means comprehensive exams, our visitation program where we interview prospective/new students for GA positions, a new ASD Board, the annual SAHE garage sale, our celebration banquet, award processes for the Lunardini Alumni Award, the Hadley and Scholar award, and planning for the next year.



Last year at this time, we were planning for Dr. Lunardini's retirement. It has been an odd year without Ron to turn to and depend on for his knowledge and talents. I keep in touch with him and retirement seems to be working out well! They spent February in Florida and I know Ron is looking forward to warmer weather when he can polish his clubs and get out on the golf course. Email Ron at [lunar@auxmail.iup.edu](mailto:lunar@auxmail.iup.edu) I recently spent a few days with Dave DeCoster in Florida and we had a wonderful visit – reminiscing, telling stories, lot of good laughs, and catching up on our lives and IUP.

It has been a good year for SAHE. I want to assure you that we are in good shape! I am so thankful for the excellent and hard work of the faculty. I urge you to take a look at our newly designed web page that Dr. John Mueller and Ryan, our GA, have maintained and built over the past year. We'd like to hear your feedback and suggestions for the site.

Please consider contributing to the IUP Foundation account we have established which supports professional development opportunities for our students and other departmental activities. Sources which have previously provided funding have decreased substantially and your contributions would be greatly appreciated. Through this account, we have provided funding for 22 students to attend regional one-day conferences this year. Two alums (Deena Kelly '06, and Michael Dodge '06) established a scholarship fund for second year students to attend ACPA... an excellent idea and a very generous gift from two recent alums.

We are doing well and we hope that you are too. Thanks for keeping in touch. We always love to hear your news, updates and ideas. We appreciate your loyalty to and support for the SAHE program

Best to you!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda M. Hall". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.



## Mueller Named Diamond Honoree

The American College Personnel Association's (ACPA) Educational Leadership Foundation announced that Dr. John A. Mueller has been recognized as a 2009 Diamond Honoree. Since 1999, this award has been presented to deserving individuals in recognition of their outstanding and sustained contributions to higher education and to the student affairs profession. Mueller was recognized, along with other 2009 Diamond Honorees, at the ACPA national convention in Washington, D.C., in April. John Welty, former Vice President of Student Affairs and former president of IUP, and currently President, California State University-Fresno, was also be recognized with the 2009 class of Diamond Honorees.

## Current Students Receive First Annual Dodge/Kelly Scholarship

*Submitted by Dr. John Mueller*

SAHE alumni Michael Dodge ('06) and Deena Kelly ('06) have instituted a new scholarship program for SAHE second year students. The Dodge/Kelly Scholarship is designed to support two students' attendance at the annual ACPA conference by covering the students' registration costs. This year's recipients were Morgan Rizzardi and Kelly Hojnacki; both are members of the 2009 graduating class. Said Deena Kelly said about this year's recipients. "It was very rewarding for Michael and I to meet both Morgan and Kelly at the conference as they prepared for their job search and new life as student affairs professionals. We are hoping that helping financially with the conference will contribute to their attendance at a national conference that is part of the culmination of the amazing SAHE graduate experience. It is our way of saying thanks to the IUP SAHE program that has given us so much and prepared us so well for our professional positions." All associated with the SAHE department thank Deena and Michael for their generous contribution to the professional development and support of our graduate students!



Deena Kelly, Morgan Rizzardi, Kelly Hojnacki, and Michael Dodge (L to R)

## Newkerk receives IUP's President's Medal of Distinction

*-from the IUP Reporter, February 2009*



Nancy Newkerk

In March, Nancy Newkerk received IUP's President's Medal of Distinction for Professional Achievement. The President's Medal is the highest non-degree honor awarded by the university. A former dean of women at IUP, Newkerk also served as associate dean of Admissions as well as a member of the staff for many years until her retirement in 1994. In between those positions, she worked in Admissions at Hartwick College in Oneota, New York. Newkerk remains active in IUP activities by attending most home basketball and football games, serving on several scholarship committees, and tutoring athletes. She is an honorary member of the IUP Athletic Hall of Fame and is serving as an active member on IUP's University Acquisitions, Inc., board. In the community, Newkerk has served as a board member of Grace Methodist Church, and VNA/Hospice. She was honored as a Notable Woman last year by the American Association of University Women.



## SAHE Reception at ACPA

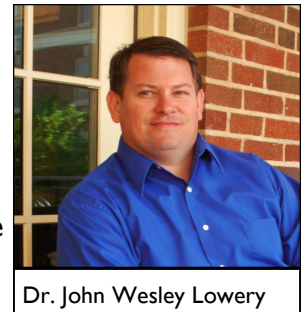


The IUP SAHE Alumni and Friends Reception was held this year at the ACPA Convention in Metro DC. The event recognized Dr. Kevin Bailey ('90) as the Lunardini Distinguished Alumni Award winner as well as an opportunity for alumni, faculty, and current students to catch up. Congratulations to all who presented at NASPA and ACPA and we look forward to seeing next year at ACPA in Boston, MA.

## Faculty Updates

### Dr. John Wesley Lowery

Greetings from western Pennsylvania where we remain hopeful that spring will soon arrive. After spending the past eight winters in Oklahoma and South Carolina, the Indiana winter has come as something of a shock. However, we survived the snow, the wind, and the cold. Margaret, our 5 year old daughter remained as excited by the last snowfall of the year as she was by the first. She has also enjoyed learning to ice skate this year and has hopes of playing hockey next winter.



Dr. John Wesley Lowery

This has been another busy semester for me at IUP as I am teaching Assessment and Evaluation which is a new course for me, but I am enjoying teaching that course a great deal. I am also coordinating the SAHE Comprehensive Examination this semester which is always time consuming. I continue to learn more about the SAHE Program, IUP, and the Indiana community. This semester has also been busy with conference travel and presentations. I attended and made multiple presentations at the ASJA Conference in Florida, the Linda B. Floyd & SCCPA Joint Campus Safety Conference in Myrtle Beach, and the NASPA Conference in Seattle. An added benefit of this conference travel was the opportunity to meet IUP alumni from around the country. If you are interested in the handouts from any of my recent presentations, please visit my website: [www.johnwesleylowery.com](http://www.johnwesleylowery.com)

My upcoming professional travel will include the ASCA Donald D. Gehring Academy for Student Conduct Administration in June at the University of Utah. In addition to presenting, I am serving as the coordinator of the Training Institute which is designed to offer an intensive four-day competency based curriculum intended for student conduct and conflict resolution administrators new to the field, as well as seasoned student affairs professionals new to the area of student conduct and conflict resolution. I have been involved in the Academy for more than a decade, and am excited to be leading the Institute this year.

As my first year at IUP winds down, I remain enthusiastic about the decision to join the faculty in the SAHE Program and excited about the coming year, having met many of the new students recently at Visitation Days.

Please do not hesitate to call me [(723) 357-4535] at or e-mail me [jlowery@iup.edu], if you have any questions or I can assist you any way.

## Dr. Holley A. Belch

Greetings from Indiana! I hope this note finds you enjoying warm weather and looking forward to a wonderful summer respite. The spring semester was a whirlwind this year. It was great to see some of you at ACPA in National Harbor, MD and to meet other alums for the first time. I always look forward to our social gatherings at national conferences each year. During spring semester teaching Student Development Theory and Topical Areas in Student Affairs kept me busy, presenting two programs at ACPA had me on my toes, and serving as the Associate Editor of ACPA's Books & Media Board was challenging. Mix all that with the traditional spring semester happenings and it makes for one busy time as I'm sure all of you had on your campuses as well.



Dr. Holley A. Belch

This summer I'll be teaching/supervising Practicum and an on-line course entitled Ethics & Leadership in Higher Education, continuing research on students with psychiatric disabilities and presenting my findings at the Postsecondary Disability Training Institute, working on several collaborative projects, and welcoming the next group of new students. I'm committed to playing more golf as well as planning excursions away from PA. As always, keep us informed as to how and what you are doing and continue to send us good students!

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## Dr. John A. Mueller

As I write this, I am recouping from the ACPA convention in metro DC (which means I am catching up on lots of work from time spent away from my office!). It was a very successful and energizing conference and I think it turned out to be a great professional experience for seasoned and new professionals alike. But it's always good to be home.



Dr. John A. Mueller

Here in western PA the icy winter winds have turned to warm spring breezes and the bare limbs of trees are giving way to buds. The semester must be coming to a close. I'm looking forward to the more relaxed and leisurely days of the summer. Still, there's plenty of exciting work to do and things to look forward to. I'll be teaching the American College Student and working on manuscripts for two book chapters and some journal articles. The research on atheist college students, begun by Jamie Guilford ('08) and Faina Bukher ('08), and me, has attracted a fair amount of attention resulting in a Chronicle commentary, an ACPA presentation with Jason Lee ('10), as well an invitation to speak at a secular student conference this summer in Ohio. Also, some colleagues from the Universities of Iowa and Massachusetts and I hope to access some of the data from HERI to examine and understand the spiritual lives of atheist, agnostic and non-religious students.

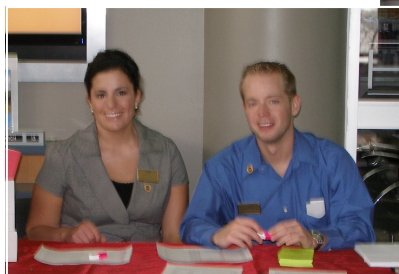
This time of year is always so revitalizing as three groups of SAHE students transition to new and exciting times in their lives: the class of '11 is just coming together, the class of '10 is moving to "second year" status, and the class of '09 is preparing to take all they've learned and accomplished out to our profession. I continue to be honored and glad to be a part of all that is SAHE. Best wishes for a relaxing and productive summer!



## SAHE Visitation Weekend

Submitted by Jill Johnson Hilty '10

In March, SAHE held the annual Visitation Weekend. We had forty-six prospective students join us from California, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, Pennsylvania as well as Canada. We also had 21 different undergraduate majors represented from Biochemistry and Psychology to Interior Design and Business. There were graduates from large public universities as well as small private colleges attending. Several students are currently out in the workforce and many have just recently graduated or will graduate soon. As always, alumni involvement is critical in the recruitment of prospective students. Our admission efforts depend greatly on the assistance of alumni out in the field. Many of our prospective students have stressed how instrumental alumni have been in their choice to attend the IUP SAHE program. Our sincerest thanks!



## Accomplishments & Accolades

### Alumni

**Jennifer Browning ('04)** Distinguished Service Award, ACPA Commission for Career Development

**Lynn Burke ('05)** Outstanding New Professional, Pennsylvania College Personnel Association

**Matt Hinton ('00)** Dr. Daniel Bratton Award for Outstanding Service to the Association, College Personnel Association of New York State

**Tim Lempfert ('99)** won the Professional Award from the Missouri College Personnel Association

**Julene Pinto-Dyczweski ('89)** Ron Lunardini Outstanding mentor Award, Pennsylvania College Personnel Association

**Raechele Pope, Ed.D. ('81)** NASPA, Robert H. Shaffer Award for Academic Excellence as a Graduate Faculty Member.

**Gerald Tang ('08)** is the 2009 recipient of the Career Resource Managers Association (CRMA) scholarship.

### Faculty

**Dr. Lowery**, Outstanding Mentor to Graduate Students, ACPA Standing Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals

**Dr. Mueller**, ACPA Foundation Diamond Honoree

### Convention Presentations

**Dr. Belch**, ACPA, "Students with Psychiatric Disabilities: What Do We Need to Know?"

**Dr. Lowery**, NASPA, presented three programs including, "Partnering for Compliance: The Clery Act and Student Affairs"

**Dr. Mueller and Jason Lee**, ACPA, "Intersections of Religious Privilege: Serving Atheist Students"

### Professional Updates

**Sean Agnew ('97)** accepted a position as the Assistant Director of Residence Life, for South Halls at Penn State (University Park).

**Lisa Baer ('91)** is completing her first year of a 2 year certification program in Spiritual Direction through Oasis Ministries. She will also graduate from the Leadership Huntingdon County class in May.

**Tom Baker ('05)** recently became the Vice President of Programs for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh. Over 3,500 copies of his first book "Get Involved!" have been purchased and it is the common reading for all first year students at Carlow University. He has spoken with thousands of students, faculty, and administrators at over 60 colleges, corporations, and community groups. More details can be found at: [www.bakerleadership.com](http://www.bakerleadership.com)

**Faina Bukher ('08)** will be working at Appalachian State University for Duke as a Residence Life Coordinator this summer.

**John Carnes ('94)** accepted a position in the admissions office at La Roche College. He lives in West Mifflin with his wife Lisa and his sons Ben (5) and Bobby (1).

**Edward Cruz ('06)** accepted a new position with the University of Miami's Toppel Career Center as an Assistant Director for Graduate Student & Alumni Programs.

**Alicia Davin ('06)** took a job at Pitt Greensburg in December as an Academic Advisor.

**Rebecca Dzara ('06)** recently moved to a new position as the Director of Orientation at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA.

**Sara Hicks ('06)** recently started a position as the Assistant Director for Residence Life at Merrimack College in North Andover, MA.

**Shelly Lang ('96)** started a new position in February as a Senior Human Resources Manager at Total Protections, LLC.

**Nicole Lechene ('03)** has been accepted into UGA's Ph.D. program for Counseling and Student Personnel, with an anticipated graduation in 2012.

**Jennifer Ayotte Moran ('96)** accepted a new position at Hudson Valley Community College in Albany, NY as an Advisement Specialist in the Individual Studies Department.

**Katie Motycki ('04)** accepted a position at IUP, as the Assistant Director for Orientation in the Advising and Testing Center.

**Carleen Pallante ('08)** works in the Office of Career Development at Nova Southeastern University, as the Assistant Director of Campus Relations.

**Ryan Rearick ('06)** accepted a new position in June 2008 to join the staff of the Robert E. Cook Honors College at IUP as Assistant Director for Co-curriculum. He also got married to Emily Critchlow on October 18.

**Alissa Campbell Shaw ('96)** was promoted in November 2008 to Director, Telefunding Donor Cultivation at ALSAC/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

**Erin Thiel ('05)** accepted a new position at the University of Maryland. She now works in the Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Studies as a Pre-Admission Transfer Advisor, developing a new program on campus called Pre-Admission Transfer Advising.

**Jason Wagner ('03)** will be starting at NC State in the Ed.D. Adult and Community College Education cohort that will meet in Charlotte next fall. He will also be getting married on September 12, 2009.

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### Personal Updates

**Darlene Beherns ('06)** will be getting married October 11, 2009.

**Julie (LeGrand) Varnish ('01)** and her husband Jason, welcomed their second child, Jack Brandon Varnish on October 30th, 2008.



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## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)*