



SPECIAL EDITION:
Fall Awards

January 2005

Congratulations Award Recipients!!!

VCPA is pleased to announce the winners from their inaugural Fall 2004 awards. These winners exemplify the outstanding and amazing Student Affairs work that is taking place within the Commonwealth. We all should be proud of the work that these and other colleagues are performing on behalf of our institutions and students.

**Outstanding New Professional:
 Nina Wells, Virginia Union**

Nina Wells serves as the Judicial Affairs Officer. Her nominator wrote "She has completely reengineered from a system that involved just a judicial officer, to a Judicial Board composed of students, faculty and staff with a focus on student development. Particular highlights of her work include: (a) providing leadership for interviewing and selecting all applicants, (b) working with the faculty senate and vice presidents to identify members of the hearing and appeal boards, and the Campus Mediation Program, reviewing and revising the Standards of Conduct, (c) building an extraordinary partnership with faculty, (d) developing and implementing an evaluation plan for the program, and (e) providing a comprehensive training program for all involved in the Judicial Board. Ms. Wells did all these things, while reviewing violations, hearing cases, and attending to all administrative duties of the system. Ms. Wells has neither a support staff, nor an assistant."

**Outstanding Student Affairs Professional:
 Multicultural Affairs:**

Hilary Wing-Richards, James Madison University

Hilary Wing-Richards serves as the Associate Director of the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and the Women's Resource Center. Her nominator wrote: "Hillary's passion and dedication to ending violence against women and educating the responsibilities of alcohol use on campus and within the surrounding communities is unprecedented. Recently, Hillary has been given the responsibility of researching the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender student population. Although no small task, Hillary's enthusiasm and dedication are already proving to provide positive results by the creation of an LGBT resource center. Hillary's presence in the classroom, as an instructor of PSYC 450/530 Child Abuse and Neglect and WMST 200 Introduction to Women's Studies, offers her students not only an excellent academic foundation, but by offering her own life skills, along with her invaluable

**Outstanding Student Affairs Professional:
 Student Activities:**

Col. Susan Barr, Virginia Military Institute

Col. Susan Barr serves as the Dean of Academic Support and Cadet Services. Her nominator wrote "Col. Barr has been instrumental in the development and implementation of a new Sexual Assault Policy for Cadets at VMI. Although women matriculated into VMI in 1997, the Institute had made no provisions for dealing with sexual assault prior to 2004. Col. Barr was given the assignment and quickly worked to establish a team of VMI officials and community allied professionals (law enforcement, prosecutors and victim advocates) to begin developing the new policy. After many meetings and policy drafts, General Peay approved the final Sexual Assault Policy. Col. Barr then began working on a plan to implement the policy. Her commitment to ending sexual violence at VMI through developing leadership has made a significant impact on life for students at VMI. She has beaten the odds to develop and implement a policy at an institution that did not even admit women until 158 years after it was established. She is to be commended for her leadership and determination."

**Be on the
 lookout
 soon for in-
 formation
 pertaining
 to nomina-
 tions for
 the VCPA
 Spring
 Awards.**

**Outstanding Student Affairs Professional:
 Residence Life:**

Jerry Roeder, Christopher Newport

Jerry Roeder serves as the Director of Residence Life. His nominator wrote, "When Jerry arrived on campus there was minimal policy development and a residential program was non-existent. Under his direction residence life on the CNU campus has been redefined. Jerry has spent a tremendous amount of time developing a comprehensive RA training program, creating a hall governance structure, refining residential policy, and creating opportunities for staff development. The sense of community that exists within our residential facilities can unequivocally be attributed to Jerry's leadership. The statewide recognition of the programming efforts of the CNU RAs to develop this community is because Jerry values staff development and the recognition that can be associated with such opportunity. Jerry is an asset to Christopher Newport University. I am convinced that without his leadership, his vision, his conviction and his persistence, the program that now defines the residential experience at CNU, would not exist."

Fall Awards cont.

2004-2005

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Outstanding Student Affairs Professional: Advising:

Mildred Maree-Britt, Virginia Union

Mildred Maree-Britt serves as the Director of Career Services and serves as the Advisor to the Yearbook and Ms. Virginia Union. Her nominator wrote, "Advising a college yearbook, campus queens and kings, and advising that occurs in Career Services are often not considered in the traditional definition of Advising. However, at Virginia Union University, such advising has flourished because of her work. Her reengineering of the Career Services offices has resulted in the opportunity for individual assistance for students, increased visitations by employers, two annual career fairs on campus, and numerous workshops and programs for students. There have also been numerous new internships and partnerships identified as a result of Ms. Maree-Britt's work. A unique initiative that she implemented was the Clothes Closet, which was developed to assist students unable to afford professional clothing needed to interview for jobs. She also advises the Yearbook and the campus queens and kings. In this role, she has completely reengineered the pageants, protocol, visibility and role of these titles. Coupled with her contributions to impacting the professional and etiquette roles of the kings and queens, is her development of the Man to Man and Afternoon Chat and Chew sessions for our students. This unique type of advising has indeed made a significant difference in the lives of the young men and women at Virginia Union."

Outstanding Student Affairs Professional: Orientation:

Janelle Perron Jennings, University of Richmond

Janelle Perron Jennings serves as the Associate Director of Student Activities and oversees the Orientation Program. Her nominator wrote, "Janelle's contributions to our orientation program exemplify her commitment, initiative, effectiveness and student oriented philosophy. Janelle has offered innovative contribution to our institution, and has made an enormous impact on the growth and development of our first year students. She revised the Orientation Advisor selection process to include a group interview so that those on the selection committee could gain broader knowledge and insight about the candidates. She added an interactive session between Orientation Advisors, Pre-Orientation Advisors, and International Orientation Advisors so they can meet each other and discuss how to comprehensively address needs of all students. She also created a program that gave first year women the opportunity to talk with their Orientation Advisor about what they've seen in the program, how they feel about it, and what resources are available on campus. As you can see, in just under two years Janelle has made significant changes to the orientation program. Janelle has demonstrated through her strong work ethic that she is truly dedicated to her work with the Orientation program and her initiatives have been very well received by students, staff, and parents."

Colleague Connection Award

Congratulations on Max Vest from the University of Richmond and Quentin Ballard from Virginia State University for being the first team with the Colleague Connection at VASPA/VACUHO to complete Mission VASPA/VACUHO. By being the first team to finish, both Max and Quentin received a bag of goodies as well as a free one year membership to VCPA. Congratulations Max and Quentin.

Get Published! Write for the *Voice* Tim Coffey, Virginia Commonwealth University

We hope you have enjoyed the Special Edition of the *VCPA Voice* celebrating the recent awards. We aim to publish a newsletter that keeps Student Affairs professionals connected not only with VCPA and ACPA but also with each other.

If you have an article you would like to submit that relates to Student Affairs, higher education, professional development opportunities, or other relevant topics, please email either Janelle Perron Jennings (jperron@richmond.edu) or myself (tcoffey@vcu.edu).

The deadline for submissions is as follows:

January On-line Conference

On January 28th from 11am to 1pm, VCPA will be sponsoring an on-line forum discussing "helicopter parents" and issues surrounding them. It is our hope that the information shared will provide some tips on how to best handle these parents as well as some tools to utilize them in the development of our students. Sweet Briar College has been gracious enough to let us utilize their network for this discussion. To gain access to the on-line forum you will need to go to:

<http://www.ccl.sbc.edu/volunteer/vcpa.html>

January 24 (for the February 14 issue)

April 18 (for the May 9 issue)

We also would like to hear from you about conferences you've attended, presentations you have given and books you have read. Feel free to submit reviews to the *Voice* as well.

We look forward to your submissions and to a great year ahead!

Tim Coffey (tcoffey@vcu.edu) serves as Complex Manager of the Ackell Residence Center at Virginia Commonwealth University.

