

September 2008

# REGIONseven ACUI newsletter



Serving colleges and universities in Ohio, Michigan, and Ontario, Canada

## Letter from RD

### **Kim Jacobs, Regional 7 Director**

Recently, I found myself dreading the start of the new year, specifically all the work and preparation! However, a colleague reminded me of all the positive things that come with the start of the new year, particularly the students. Our building is now flooded with students greeting friends, buying books, and getting food. They're already renting lockers, leaving messes in the food court, and testing all our rules and policies!

Students make our work worthwhile...we learn from them, are challenged by them, and gain enjoyment and satisfaction from them. No matter how we will be challenged by students, we get to watch their progress over the course of the next few years. Their progress as they grow and develop through their studies and experiences, some of which we, as administrators, help create.

One of the significant experiences that can influence a student's life is attendance at a conference such as the ACUI regional conference. Much of this newsletter is dedicated to our upcoming conference at Eastern Michigan University (EMU) November 7-9, 2008. Hopefully, you will consider bringing a delegation of students. Not only will it be a learning experience for each of them, but it will be one of those purposeful events that will bring you satisfaction as you watch them enjoy the conference. If your budget doesn't permit bringing students, then at least I hope you plan to attend. The conference is a good time to network, to share challenges and concerns, and to learn some best practices. Attendance can be good for not only your students' growth and development, but also your own! So try to take the time to step away from work in November and be a part of the ACUI Region 7 Conference.

In the meantime, enjoy the start of the new academic year and all the joys and the challenges that come with it!

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### **New Faces at The College of Wooster**

#### ***Julia C. Metcalf***

Julia C. Metcalf is the new Assistant Director of Student Activities at The College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio. Julia received her bachelor's degree in Russian education in 2004 and then received her master's degree in college student personnel, both from Bowling Green State University (BGSU). Before joining the staff at The College of Wooster in August, Julia worked for BGSU as the Health Educator in the Wellness Connection. On September 20, 2008, Julia will marry her college sweetheart, Christopher, and will change her name to be Julia Zimmer.

#### ***Rachel Messenger***

Rachel was born and raised in Akron and attended The University of Akron for undergraduate studies. There, she worked at the student union and was involved with the transition to the new building as a student manager. Later, she traveled for a year as a Leadership Consultant for Alpha Gamma Delta International Women's Fraternity. She continued to serve the Fraternity as a leadership advisor working with the Indiana University chapter, while pursuing her Master's in higher education and student affairs. While in the graduate school, she held an assistantship at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and was involved with the opening of the new Campus Center facility in January 2008. While at IUPUI, she received a scholarship from Region 9 to attend the annual ACUI conference in Atlanta and presented at the Region 8 and 9 conference at Northwestern. Rachel graduated in May 2008, and is excited to join the team at The College of Wooster as program coordinator in the Lowry Center/Student Activities and assistant area coordinator in Residence Life. Rachel's favorite color is red, she loves to bake, is addicted to sweet tea, and is an avid country music fan!

### **Personal News**

#### ***Adam Richard Gutowski***

Adam Richard Gutowski was born on July 17, 2008 at 12:01a.m. He came into the world at 9 lbs., 6 oz. and 21 inches long. Adam is the son of Joe Gutowski, Associate Director of Thwing Center for Programs and Leadership at Case Western Reserve University.

#### ***Amy Browns Taylor***

Amy Browns was married on August 16. Amy is the Director of MainStreet Operations at the University of Cincinnati, and her new last name is Browns Taylor.

### **Moving On**

Dear Region 7,

This is a message I find hard to send, as I would prefer to tell you all individually, but that is not possible. I left BGSU on August 15, to assume the Senior Director, Union and Student Activities position at the Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pennsylvania. It is truly a wonderful opportunity for me to return "home" to Pennsylvania, where my family resides and part of Jeff's family as well. It is also a very exciting time in Student Affairs at Penn State as they welcome a new Vice President, Damon Sims, and have renewed energy and focus for the future.

It has been an amazing five years for me at BG. I have enjoyed working with all of you as part of Region 7 and will miss seeing you at the regional conferences. But please look for me at the annual ACUI conferences, and don't worry, I will never forget the Region 7 salute! Thank you again for everything you do for the staff and students in Region 7! And please know that you are always welcome to come visit me in "Happy Valley!"

All my best,

Mary G. Edgington

### **From the Region – In Memoriam**

Jim Miller, Director of the Gallagher Student Center at Xavier University, passed away on July 28, 2008. Jim was involved with College Bowl and was a strong supporter of Region 7 activities. In an August 12 Cincinnati Enquirer article, Jim was remembered fondly by family and friends.

<http://news.cincinnati.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/AB/20080812/NEWS0104/808120342>.

Memorials should be directed to:

Mariemont Recreation Association  
3912 Pocahontas Ave.  
Cincinnati, OH 45227



### Volunteers Needed

ACUI is looking for volunteers who want to bring their unique strengths and talents to the leadership of the Association and ultimately help shape its future.

The time is now upon us to nominate yourself and others to stand for election to the ACUI Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees has the responsibility to determine and communicate the strategic direction of the Association and ensure the fiscal health of the organization. The board is composed of three officers: the President, the President-Elect, and the past President, as well as six at-large members, at least one of whom must be a student at the time of their election.

Nominations and applications are now being accepted for the president-elect and three at-large members. The President-elect is a three-year commitment beginning at the 2009 annual conference, and at-large members serve for two years beginning at the 2009 annual conference. **Anyone can submit a nomination or submit their candidate packet**, but the candidate must be a member at a member institution, and have verified institutional support. **You need not be nominated to run for election.** Persons interested in running for election may submit their candidate packet by October 3 without notification of being nominated.

Information about the positions is available on the **ACUI website** including volunteer descriptions, elections policies and procedures, and information regarding volunteer expectations. The deadline to submit a complete candidate packet is October 3, 2008. An informational orientation will be held for individuals who are interested in learning more about the responsibilities and expectations for members of the board. The orientation will be held via a Web conference call and led by current board leadership. Please see the website for details. If you are interested in the board, I believe you would find this interaction to be highly beneficial.

If you would like additional information or would like to nominate an individual, please contact me or send an email to **volunteer@acui.org**.

Lincoln Johnson, Chair  
2008–09, ACUI Election Committee  
Phone: 206.221.6323  
E-mail: [llj@u.washington.edu](mailto:llj@u.washington.edu)

### Colleen Barker-Williamson Recognized for Programs, Leadership Work with Students, Staff

As a Director for Programs and Leadership at Thwing Center, Colleen Barker-Williamson is well known as adviser, mentor and friend to students, but she has made, perhaps, an even greater impression on her staff.

In recognition of her service to students and her programs and leadership team, Barker-Williamson received the President's Award for Distinguished Service from President Barbara R. Snyder.

During her nearly 20 years in student activities and leadership, Barker-Williamson has worked with thousands of undergraduates. She has helped them along their way to becoming doctors, lawyers, CEOs, educators, and even a princess at Disneyland. She encourages students to follow their dreams as well as work for the greater good. Barker-Williamson was vital to bringing Relay for Life to Case Western Reserve for the first time this year. The idea to conduct the signature fundraising event of the American Cancer Society at the university was actually the recommendation of a former student. Barker-Williamson inspires and leads students by example, especially with her abilities to build bridges and embrace collegiality across departments, divisions, and the university as a whole. The most important team she nurtures, however, is her own.

Like with students, Barker-Williamson aspires for her staff to meet and exceed their potential as professionals and as people. She keeps the development of her team top of mind, creating opportunities for them to take on additional responsibilities and grow as leaders themselves. She also makes them an integral part of her home away from home. Congratulations to Colleen on this prestigious award!



## Register Now for Annual Region 7 Conference at EMU

It's time to register for the 2008 Region 7 Conference at Eastern Michigan University!

### MEMBERS (FULL CONFERENCE)

Early Bird: \$125 if registered before October 3  
Regular: \$150 if registered before October 24  
Late: \$175 if registered on or before November 7

### NON-MEMBERS (FULL CONFERENCE)

Early Bird: \$150 if registered before October 3  
Regular: \$175 if registered before October 24  
Late: \$200 if registered on or before November 7

### MEMBERS (ONE-DAY PASS)

Early Bird: \$100 if registered before October 3  
Regular: \$110 if registered before October 24  
Late: \$125 if registered on or before November 7

### NON-MEMBERS (ONE-DAY PASS)

Early Bird: \$125 if registered before October 3  
Regular: \$135 if registered before October 24  
Late: \$150 if registered on or before November 7

### NON-MEMBER EXHIBITOR

1st Person,  
Full Conference: \$150\*  
2nd Person,  
Full Conference: \$50\*  
2nd Person,  
One-Day Pass: \$25\*

\*non-member exhibitors are welcome to register at these rates at any time

Please keep in mind the following opportunities available to register for when you fill out the online form:

- Pre-Conference Tours
- Scholarship Auction Donations
- Swap Shop Participant
- Case Study Participant (Undergraduate Students Only)
- Case Study Advisor (Graduate Students Only)
- Newcomers Orientation
- 5K Run/Walk
- Exhibit Hall

If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact Angela Esquivel at [angelace@umich.edu](mailto:angelace@umich.edu). We look forward to having you at the conference!

## Conference Overview

While most of us are currently in the throes of fall semester as we read this, it won't be long before Welcome Week will be a distant memory. A new academic year always brings excitement and great possibilities. The ACUI Region 7 Conference Planning Team would like to help our region in "Embracing our Possibilities," which is this year's conference theme. In the next week, we hope that you and your teammates will make plans to attend the ACUI Region 7 Conference, November 7-9, 2008, at Eastern Michigan University (EMU).

The Conference Planning Team has been meeting regularly since last February. We've taken into strong consideration your feedback from last year's conference and the team experience and knowledge of college unions and student centers to bring you the very best for a weekend of learning experiences, and fun ways to meet new people and renew old friendships! From the high-quality Marriott Hotel, to the beautiful Student Center and University Park at EMU, to excellent educational sessions and entertainment, this year's conference promises a great experience at the same rate as last year's conference. This will surely make the conference well worth your investment.

So, if you would like to experience the new Student Center at EMU, sharpen your skills while competing in case studies, attend educational workshops on a variety of topics related to

students and professionals, meet and network with students and professionals from scores of colleges and universities from Michigan, Ohio, and Canada, then set your sights on November 7-9, 2008, at EMU for the ACUI Region 7 Conference. Visit the conference website to register and for updates at <http://www.emich.edu/studentcenter/acui>.

The Conference Planning Team is excited to welcome you to the conference! We look forward to seeing you November 7 at EMU!

Audrey Schwimmer  
University of Michigan  
Co-Chair, Conference Planning Team

Carlos Costa  
Eastern Michigan University  
Co-Chair, Conference Planning Team



## Conference Schedule at a Glance

### Friday, November 7

2:00p.m.	Check in begins at EMU
3:00p.m.	Hotel check-in
3:00-5:00p.m.	Pre-Conference activities
5:30 p.m.	Newcomers reception
6:15-6:45p.m.	Student reception/Case study meeting
6:30p.m.	Reception
7:00p.m.	Dinner, entertainment

### Saturday, November 8

8:45-9:45a.m.	Ed Session I
10:00-11:00a.m.	Ed Session II
11:00a.m.-Noon	Swap Shop
Noon-12:45p.m.	Lunch (Case Study time for students)
1:00-2:15p.m.	Scholarship Auction
2:30-3:30p.m.	Ed Session III
3:45-4:45p.m.	Ed Session IV
5:00-6:00p.m.	Back of House Tours, EMU
6:00-7:00p.m.	Gretchen Laatsch Reception
7:00-8:30p.m.	Dinner
8:30p.m.	Entertainment

### Sunday, November 9

8:00a.m.	5k Run
10:00-11:00a.m.	All-Conference Speaker
11:00a.m.-Noon	Case Study presentations
Noon-1:15p.m.	Brunch and introduction of the 2009 conference

## Region 7 Swap Shop - Showcase your union!

Take this opportunity to display what your union or programming board does! From facilities and student programs to events to programming, come swap ideas with other schools in our region and handout cool giveaways. Be creative! You can have a game or activity in your display, while also including information and promotional pieces about your union. Displays will be judged for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, and other awards such as People's Choice and Best Giveaways, will be handed out. Giveaway items may include, but are not limited to, pen/pencils, cups, paper, water bottles, pins, keychains, flyers, and brochures.

If you would like to have a display, but don't have the students or people power to set up and staff, that's OK, too! Just drop off your items and we will do the rest! Questions? Contact Lindsay Sorgenfrei at [lsorgen@umich.edu](mailto:lsorgen@umich.edu).

## Pre-Conference Activities

Take advantage of exciting pre-conference activities!

### Green Tour (\$5) (3:00p.m.-5:00p.m.)

This tour is comprised of two local green design buildings: Marshall on EMU's campus and the brand new rec facility on Washtenaw Community College's campus. These tours will show you the in's and out's of these buildings and what about them makes them more environmentally safe than the next. Transportation will be provided.

### Old and New Tour (\$5) (3:00p.m.-5:00p.m.)

This tour shows both the old and the new. First there will be a back-of-the-house tour of the "new" EMU Student Center showing all sides of operation. Next there will be a nice stroll through campus to our "old" union, McKenny Hall, which has undergone restoration.



## Embracing Education

This year's conference is all about Embracing Our Possibilities, and a big part of that comes from the experiences we have in the educational sessions offered. This year's educational sessions offer an array of topics to help you make the most of the possibilities in your campus community. The topic areas that will be highlighted in this year's educational sessions include:

- Marketing strategies
- Late-night programming
- Student employee programs and relationships
- Budgeting
- Leadership programs
- Student org advising and management
- Diversity
- Spirituality
- Legal issues
- Sustainability

Sessions will be offered for a variety of audiences including professional staff, undergraduate students, and graduate students, so there's something for everyone! Check out the conference Web site for a complete listing of education sessions for this year's conference.

## Help Needed for the Scholarship Auction

We are looking for items to be auctioned off at our annual Scholarship Auction. No auction would be complete without the usual school memorabilia, sweatshirts, and t-shirts. This year we are striving to make it the best auction ever, and so we invite you to explore your schools and surrounding areas. Try your art departments and see if they have a one of a kind piece that shows off your school's talent. See if your athletics teams want someone from our region to go to a game! Do you have a special hobby like jewelry making or painting? Show off your wares and help out students at the same time by donating your work to the ACUI Student Scholarship Auction!

Remember, we will also have several student-only packages. Above all, remember that all proceeds from this auction go to fund our scholarships for attendance at future conferences and leadership events. Help us to make this our best auction yet!

## Case Studies FAQ

### What is a case study?

A case study is a scenario or a real world problem that occurs in the union. Cases may be fictional, but have some grounding in "real-life" situations that have taken place in our facilities. These cases help students discover the different decisions and opinions that a union staff must face in order to keep the union in a place where everyone can come in feel welcome.

### Why case studies?

Case studies represent the student perspective to handling problems on campus. Many people do not understand the work that a staff member has to put in when deciding on different events and activities allowed in the union. At other times, a student may feel he/she has a better way to control situations that occur. This is your time to voice your opinion and at the same time understand and abide by the rules and regulations of the university.

### Who is involved in the case study?

Students will be divided into teams based on the number of participants and each team will be assigned a case of their own.

### When are the case studies presented?

The case studies will be presented to all the participants at the conference on Sunday morning. Be as creative as you would like and try to come up with the best possible solution that you see fit for the case.

### How much of the conference time will be taken up by the case studies?

You can take as much or as little time as you want. There is an introduction on Friday (where you will meet your team and facilitator, and will receive your case) and there is also time scheduled on Saturday. Anything else is up to you if you wish to meet more than the scheduled times.

### Will I miss any education sessions if I participate in the Case Study Competition?

No! The scheduled meeting times are not during educational sessions. In fact, educational sessions will help provide solutions to your case studies.



## Awards and Scholarships

ACUI Region 7 sponsors a variety of awards and scholarships for students and professional staff. For students, they include the Colleen Hennessy Undergraduate/Graduate Student Award, ILEAD, and International Conference Scholarship. For professional staff, the Gretchen Laatsch Outstanding Service Award and the Bob Rodda New Professional Award are granted on an annual basis.

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### **Colleen Hennessy Student Leader Award**

This award recognizes and rewards one graduate and one undergraduate student for their outstanding and significant contributions in campus activities and the union. Each recipient will receive \$350.

**Deadline: October 3, 2008**

### **The Bob Rodda New Professional Award**

The Bob Rodda New Professional Award, established in 1999, is presented annually to an individual who demonstrates the potential and commitment for excellence in the field of College Unions and Student Activities. The recipient must have been employed as a current full-time professional staff member of an ACUI member institution and within the field for five years or less. The award was named for Bob Rodda in 2006 for his efforts training and mentoring new professionals. The recipient will receive \$350.

**Deadline: October 3, 2008**

### **Gretchen Laatsch Outstanding Service Award**

The Gretchen Laatsch Outstanding Service Award was established in 1989 as a means of recognizing significant leadership, volunteer service and commitment to Region 7 of the Association of College Unions International. The award acknowledges an individual's contribution which advances the programs, services and retention efforts of the Region while reflecting the mission and goals of the Association. The award was named for Gretchen Laatsch in recognition of her dedication and outstanding performance as Regional Representative as well as her other contributions to the Region, including Conference Coordinator, Manual Coordinator, host of College Bowl and Recreation Tournaments and Newsletter Editor. Gretchen served ACUI as the Vice President for Regional Affairs from 1990-1993 and as ACUI President in 1994-1995.

**Deadline: October 3, 2008**

### **Student Scholarship to National Conference**

The recipient of this scholarship receives the registration fee to attend the national conference. The student must show significant contributions in campus activities and programming. Scholarship includes conference registration.

**Deadline: February 2009**

### **I-Lead Scholarship**

An ACUI five-day experience-based summer program offered to maximize the potential of the student-staff partnership. The registration fee is waived for the participant. Scholarship includes institute registration fee.

**Deadline: Spring 2009**

### **Gretchen Laatsch Graduate Student Scholarship (National)**

The Gretchen Laatsch Scholarship was established by former ACUI President Gretchen Laatsch from the University of Akron and her husband, Jim Switzer. The scholarship is intended to encourage graduate students to submit professional quality articles of interest to the field of college unions and student activities.

The scholarship is open to any student enrolled in a graduate program. The student must be recognized by an institution as a student in pursuit of a graduate degree in any academic area. Special consideration will be given to students either currently in the field of college unions and student activities or those intending to enter the profession. Applicants must submit an article containing a minimum of 500 words suitable for publication in an Association publication and a letter of recommendation from a college union or student activities professional. For more information, go to [www.acui.org](http://www.acui.org).

**Deadline: February 2009**

For more information or if you have further questions, please contact Diane Wisnewski at [wisnewskid@macomb.edu](mailto:wisnewskid@macomb.edu) or 586-286-2086.



## Region 7 Leadership Team

<i>Mark Albers</i>	<i>University of Dayton</i>	<b>Facilities and Operations Education Council</b>
<i>Chad Barnhardt</i>	<i>Ohio University</i>	<b>Campus Life and Program Management Education Council</b>
<i>Mark Bourassa</i>	<i>Bluffton University</i>	<b>Auxiliary Services Education Council</b>
<i>Amy Browns Taylor</i>	<i>University of Cincinnati</i>	<b>Newsletter Editor</b>
<i>Carlos Costa</i>	<i>Eastern Michigan University</i>	<b>2007 Regional Conference Chair</b>
<i>Kim Jacobs</i>	<i>Bowling Green State University</i>	<b>Regional Director</b>
<i>Patrick Kachurek</i>	<i>Wright State University</i>	<b>College Bowl Tournament Coordinator</b>
<i>Kate Leishman</i>	<i>Kalamazoo College</i>	<b>Recreation &amp; Leisure Time Activities Tournament Coordinator</b>
<i>Jean Ann Miller</i>	<i>Oakland University</i>	<b>Communities Liaison</b>
<i>Jeff Pelletier</i>	<i>The Ohio State University</i>	<b>Administration, Finance, and Management Education Council</b>
<i>Audrey Schwimmer</i>	<i>University of Michigan</i>	<b>2007 Regional Conference Chair</b>
<i>Gale Swanka</i>	<i>Bowling Green State University</i>	<b>Regional Business Manager</b>
<i>Aronda Thomas</i>	<i>Bowling Green State University</i>	<b>Web Coordinator</b>
<i>Diane Wisnewski</i>	<i>Macomb Community College</i>	<b>Scholarship &amp; Awards Chair</b>

To post announcements or employment opportunities, please email the information to Newsletter Editor Amy Browns Taylor at [amy.browns@uc.edu](mailto:amy.browns@uc.edu).

Designed by Campus Services Marketing,  
University of Cincinnati

