

# ASPA NEWS

ASSOCIATION OF SPECIALIZED & PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITORS

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & BOARD DEVELOPMENT

July 2008

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### CHAIR'S REMARKS

By PETER H. VLASSES ACPE: PHARMACY

Dear ASPA Members and Friends,

I want to thank the ASPA membership for electing me at the Spring 2008 meeting to a three year term on the Board of Directors and to serve as the Chair of your Board for the next two years. I am deeply honored to be selected to serve and promise to work diligently, along with my colleagues on the Board and our Executive Director, Cynthia Davenport, to meet the needs of the ASPA membership.

Although I have served on and chaired other boards in the past, being new to the ASPA Board of Directors and also being the Chair makes for a steep learning curve. ASPA's Immediate Past Chair, Paul Gaston, attended my first ASPA Board meeting (May 14-15, 2008 in Chicago) to ensure a smooth transition process. Paul served ASPA exceptionally well as a member of the Board and its chair and I am truly indebted to him for his willingness to "show me the ropes." His guidance was extremely valuable.

We covered a great deal of ground at the May meeting. I was impressed with how quickly the group bonded, even with three new members (see introductions article), and how we addressed all the items on our agenda. Cynthia's preparation of materials for the meeting, as well as her guidance during the meeting contributed greatly to our completing our tasks. I am excited about the plans that were developed for the Fall 2008 meeting in New Orleans, both those submitted by the Professional Development Committee and the portion of the meeting that was planned by the Board itself. The member evaluations of the Spring 2008 meeting (see highlights article prepared by Board Member Kathy Megivern) were very positive and offered important guidance to the planning of our next meeting. Of note, during the meeting, the Board committed to look toward the future and discussed a plan to update our strategic vision work.

Cynthia and I are communicating frequently, on the phone and via email, about our respective "ASPA - To Do Lists," to stay ahead of our respective assignments. During one of these calls, I was shocked to learn of the passing of Board member Claire Felbinger. Claire made valuable contributions at my first board meeting and her input and perspectives will be missed by ASPA and by me.

On a brighter note, I have been sitting in on the External Recognition Issues Committee (ERIC) conference calls as they keep an eye on and proactively try to positively affect the Higher Education Act reauthorization process. I am truly awed by the thought and passion that goes into the deliberations of this highly experienced group. They are uniformly committed to preserving the ideals of the accreditation process that all ASPA members ascribe to and to not let government regulation interfere with or undermine that process.

Please feel free to contact me with your ideas, needs, and concerns regarding ASPA at [pvllasses@acpe-accredit.org](mailto:pvllasses@acpe-accredit.org). I look forward to your feedback and your active involvement to help ASPA become an even stronger organization that better serves its members. U

## A SMOOTH HAND-OFF

By PAUL GASTON, TRUSTEES PROFESSOR, KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

When Cynthia Davenport reminded me that I was to write brief comments on “passing the baton,” I recalled my experience of high school track.

Although that was not my finest hour, given my lack of athletic talent, I learned how important - and how difficult - a successful hand-off can be. When you are running hard, arms and legs pumping, and you must make connections within a specified distance with the next “leg” of the relay, there’s much that can go wrong. The next runner can start too soon, accelerate too slowly, or fail to reach back far enough. And even if everything else goes well, you can drop the baton.

Probably because Peter Vlasses is a superb athlete, I was able to pass the ASPA baton smoothly to him in May at the board meeting in Chicago. He was already up to speed when we met to complete planning for the meeting in New Orleans in September, and he led one of the most productive board meetings that I have experienced. ASPA will enjoy effective leadership during Peter’s tenure as chair. His grasp on the baton is secure, and he is already far down the track.

Having stepped off the track, my leg of the relay complete, I am enjoying reflecting on my ASPA experience - six years as a member of your board, two years as your vice-chairperson, and my final year as your chair. This organization has come a long way. Its membership has grown, its influence on Capitol Hill has expanded, its visibility has increased, and, as members’ evaluations suggest, the twice-a-year meetings have become more engaging, more efficient, and more useful. Cynthia Davenport’s management is one reason. The efforts of members of the board are another. But the most important reason lies in the professionalism, the perspective, and the resourcefulness of those who are the soul of ASPA, its members.

As you may know, I may have stepped off the track as a board member, but I have not yet left the field entirely. In the fall, I will join you in New Orleans to facilitate what I believe will be an unusually compelling pair of professional development opportunities. It has been a great pleasure already to work with Greg Boyer and the Pro-D committee. Also, I am looking forward to working with the board in preparation for ASPA’s focus on long-range planning at its spring meeting in Washington. While I may not have the baton in my hand any longer, I still have some spring in my legs. See you soon! U

## RAVE REVIEWS FOR SPRING MEETING

Some thought the elevators were slow and for others, the sleeping rooms were small. But despite the pitfalls of meeting at an older hotel, for the most part the attendees in Chicago gave positive reviews to both the ASPA Spring Meeting and to the Professional Development (Pro-D) sessions. The evaluation forms reinforced what we all know about ASPA meetings – the sessions are good and the networking is even better.

While all of the presentations during the ASPA meeting received positive evaluations, the one that seemed to stand out was “The Glue That Holds Us Together,” a panel chaired by Paul Gaston. The biggest negative heard about the Members Only Meeting was simply that there wasn’t enough time!

“Dynamic,” “funny,” “very engaging,” “fantastic!” – these were just a few of the adjectives used by attendees to describe Kevin O’Connor, the facilitator for the Pro-D program. Said one attendee, “Probably the best session and presenter Pro-D has ever had!”

The overall theme of the Pro-D program was “Communications” and Mr. O’Connor did a terrific job of informing, entertaining and educating on this very important topic. He also facilitated terrific interaction among attendees and left folks with “many take away tips.”

Congratulations and thanks go to the Spring Pro-D Committee and the ASPA Board of Directors for planning such a rich and rewarding meeting. U

## ASPA Says Hello

At the Spring 2008 ASPA meeting, three new Board members, Pauletta Brown Bracy, Rodney Erickson, and Peter Vlasses, were all elected to serve three-year terms starting on May 1, 2008.

**Pauletta Brown Bracy**, a big fan of accreditation, serves as **the ASPA Board’s faculty member**. Pauletta is currently Director of University Accreditation for North Carolina Central University (NCCU). Four years ago, this position was created with her in mind by the Provost who saw a need to coordinate and manage accreditation at the university. It is Pauletta’s goal to achieve accreditation for all units on campus which are accreditable. Since she started in this position, first-time accreditation has been granted to two academic units and five additional units are on track to become accredited during the upcoming academic year. Pauletta also provides leadership for NCCU’s regional accreditation.

Pauletta has been at NCCU for 26 years and holds a faculty appointment in the School of Library and Information Sciences where her areas of expertise are school media librarianship, and youth services and literature. She served as president of the NC Library Association (2003-05) and she also has strong accreditation links to NCATE: Teacher Education. Institutions seeking NCATE accreditation benefit from Pauletta’s guidance and orientation. In her limited spare time, Pauletta has traveled to Nairobi to work with Kenyatta University on accreditation. “But, alas,” she says, “no travel this summer because of the civil unrest.”

**Rodney A. Erickson**, **institutional chief academic officer board member**, is executive vice president and provost at Penn State University, a position he’s held since 1999. He’s been at Penn State for 31 years, moving through the faculty ranks to professor of Geography and Business Administration. He’s previously been a department head, research institute director, dean, and vice president for research. Rod also chairs the Committee on

Institutional Cooperation, the academic organization of Big Ten Conference universities. He earned two degrees at the University of Minnesota and his doctorate at the University of Washington.

Having grown up in rural Wisconsin surrounded by lakes and rivers, it is no surprise that Rod spends some of his limited spare time fishing, both inland and on the ocean. He and his wife, Shari, a retired realtor and avid gardener, enjoy their farm at the edge of the city where Rod raises corn and soybeans to justify the big toys that he buys. They also spend time with their two sons and families, including three grandchildren. Shari and Rod enjoy traveling very much, and have hosted many Penn State tours to interesting parts of the world.

**Peter H. Vlases, accreditor member and board chair**, is the Executive Director of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), a position he has held since 1999. His academic career has included service as full time or adjunct faculty member at several pharmacy programs: The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy; the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science (now the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia); and the University of Illinois College of Pharmacy. For 11 years, he served as Research Associate Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology, Jefferson Medical College, in Philadelphia, PA. Just prior to joining ACPE, he was Director, Clinical Research & Investigator Services, University HealthSystem Consortium, Oak Brook, IL for 10 years.

In August, Pete and his wife Fran are celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary. Their two children were both recently married, increasing the time Pete and Fran have to spend on activities such as raising volunteer service dog puppies for Canine Companions for Independence. Pete enjoys coaching 14 year olds in baseball and still plays in an Over 30 Men's Baseball League (although, having recently turned 60 years of age, he now qualifies this statement with "God willing.") u

## ASPA Spotlight: Council on Education for Public Health

### COMMUNITY HEALTH, COMMUNITY EFFORT: THE ROLE OF AN ACCREDITOR

By PAUL GASTON, TRUSTEES PROFESSOR, KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, Anthrax, Hurricane Katrina, 9/11, and Avian 'Flu - apart from their place on a list of prominent threats to human well being, which might these issues have in common? Each has stimulated a growing appreciation for the importance of public health, each has further pointed to the importance of effective education in public health schools and programs, and each has further validated the important role taken by the Council on Education for Public Health for the past 35 years.

The roots of accreditation in this vital field go back even further. Although CEPH was incorporated in 1974, formal assurance of quality in public health education

began in the early 1940s with work by the American Public Health Association. Together with the Association for Schools of Public Health (ASPH), APHA stands today as one of the Council's two corporate sponsors.

Although the Council's incorporation provided broad authority for activities including research and the sponsoring of examinations, CEPH has pursued a close focus on its primary mission. In a broad sense, according to the CEPH website, that mission is "to enhance health in human populations through organized community effort." Through the practice of accreditation, the Council seeks to improve the quality of education in public health schools and programs and to recognize the professional education of those qualified to identify, address, and, most critically, help to prevent threats to the public health.

One source of strength for CEPH has been the extraordinary continuity of its leadership. Laura Rasar King, who has served as executive director since October 2004, succeeded Patricia P. Evans, who was the Council's leader for 23 years - and who, not incidentally, played a formative role in ASPA in its early days.

With such leadership, the Council has experienced remarkable growth rate of about 35% in just the past five years. At present, 40 schools of public health and 69 public health programs representing the full spectrum of higher education enjoy CEPH accreditation. And, with accredited programs in Mexico, Canada, and Lebanon, the Council's role no longer stops at the border.

CEPH operates with a board of ten "councilors" who not only meet three times a year to set policy and make decisions on accreditation, but also take part in site visits, review preliminary self-studies, and serve as the Council's committee on standards review. While it may not come as a surprise that the Council is exploring ways of limiting this formidable assignment, the hard-working councilors must find satisfaction in service to a Council that so clearly and demonstrably supports an urgent public priority.

Effective education for the public health is everyone's concern, and a Council that provides oversight for the preparation of public health professionals may well deserve the appreciation of the public - and of its colleagues in ASPA. u

## Updated ASPA Databases

Following the addition of data to track actions from the June 2008 meeting the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI), the revised data file was posted to the MEMBERS ONLY section of the ASPA web site - [www.aspa-usa.org](http://www.aspa-usa.org). Instructions for using the USDE tracking database are also posted. Members of ASPA who have forgotten how to access the new Members Only area, may contact the ASPA office for assistance.

This spring a new profile was added to the ASPA Accreditation Profile Database (APD) for a total of 67 full profiles. The new file is ready to be downloaded by all participating accreditors. u

# Fall 2008 - Looking Ahead to New Orleans

## THE HIGHER EDUCATION LANDSCAPE: CURRENT AND FUTURE

Much has changed in the world of higher education. As the country focuses on the upcoming election, we know that we can expect to see even more changes in the higher education landscape. Join ASPA in New Orleans on September 7 for a discussion with Terry W. Hartle, ACE: American Council of Education, Loren Blanchard, Xavier University of Louisiana, Doug Lederman, Inside Higher Education, and others as they examine the current higher education landscape and where we might be headed, as a nation, as states, as institutions and as accreditors. Institutions are affected by the economy and by state funding. How does this impact accreditation and the way accrediting organizations carry out their responsibilities?

## ACCREDITATION SHOWCASE: CCIE

The Commission on Collegiate Interpreter Education (CCIE) is a new accrediting organization and ASPA's newest member. The Sunday showcase always yields rich topics for further discussion at the reception that follows.

## WHAT WE LEARNED; Why it's Important

The ASPA Board has asked members of ASPA's External Recognition Issues Committee (ERIC) to consider lessons learned during HEA reauthorization and to discuss what will be useful as we move again toward negotiated rule-making.

## LEGAL ISSUES IN ACCREDITATION

Members of ASPA have received a survey asking them about their most recent legal challenges. Doug Carlson, Chicago accreditation attorney at Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon and long-time friend of ASPA, will join us to discuss current accreditation legal issues / concerns. If you did not receive the survey but would like to let Doug know what you would most like to hear from him, send an e-mail to ASPA at: [aspa@aspa-usa.org](mailto:aspa@aspa-usa.org).

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A two-topic professional development program has been planned for the Fall ASPA Meeting in New Orleans.

**Crises: Preparation, Response, Management:** On Monday afternoon, representatives from Tulane University and Louisiana State University will discuss the challenges Tulane and LSU have faced and why they have been so successful in meeting them. A panel of experienced ASPA member accreditors will consider both preparation for crises internal to the accrediting organization and the range of responses to crises experienced by programs accredited and under review. The afternoon will end with activities designed to result in preparation of a post-meeting briefing paper or guide to crisis management.

**Developing New Members of the Board:** Priorities for effective board member development will be reviewed and then discussed by working groups. The work of the groups will be discussed and areas of consensus used to prepare for ASPA a brief guide to good practice in board member development.

Members of the planning team for the Fall Pro-D program are Greg Boyer, chair, ACPE: Pharmacy; Karen O'Brien, ALA: Library & Information Studies; Amy Rowe, ABHES: Health Education Schools; and Mary Ann Lusk CADE: Dietetics. See the enclosed preliminary agenda for more detail about this not-to-be missed Pro-D program. U

## IN MEMORIAM: CLAIRE L. FELBINGER

ASPA Board member, Claire Felbinger, died suddenly and unexpectedly on May 28, 2008. The family held two memorial services in late June, one in Illinois and one in Washington, DC. In addition to being a member of the ASPA Board since spring 2003, Claire was an important member of the Public Affairs and Administration community and had strong ties to ABET: Engineering and Computer Science. If you knew Claire and wish to share a memory with her husband, Richard Bingham, he can be reached at 374 Driftwood Lane; Solomons, MD 20688 U

## Spring 2009 - Save the Dates

The ASPA Professional Development Committee would like to express its appreciation to the ASPA members and others who attended the Spring 2008 Pro-D Session for the many positive evaluations and helpful comments. The spring sub-committee is using the feedback in planning the Pro-D program for Spring 2009.

The Spring ASPA meeting will be held March 29-31 in Washington, DC. The topic for the Pro-D program has not been finalized at this time. If you have any suggestions, please contact Frank Gerbasi at [fgerbasi@aana.com](mailto:fgerbasi@aana.com). U

*ASPA's Fall 2008 Meeting - September 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>*

*Hotel Monteleone; New Orleans, LA*

*[www.hotelmonteleone.com](http://www.hotelmonteleone.com)*

*Schedules and registration forms are also available in the MEETINGS section of [www.aspa-usa.org](http://www.aspa-usa.org).*

*Click on "Upcoming Events"*

## HOW TO CONTACT ASPA

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