

THE LEADER

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Change is Good

Mary-Beth Cooper
Senior Vice President for
Student Affairs



Greetings, colleagues.

At RIT, and especially in Student Affairs, change is constant. As students' needs and desires change each year, it is vital for our Division to keep pace with them and even provide innovative concepts in anticipation of needs. This summer, the Division of Student Affairs is launching two major initiatives that are creative and endeavor to trans-

form our students' lives in meaningful ways. You can read details, below, on the creation of a new cluster of services surrounding student wellness, as well as the revisioning of our Student Learning, Support, and Assessment cluster. Although different in focus, both changes enhance our commitment to students, and keep us evolving. Although change is rarely easy, it is constant. Student Affairs continues to look forward to working with our campus partners to meet the changing needs of RIT students in 2011-12 and far beyond.

Regards,

Mary-Beth

Wellness Initiative Launched, Rubin Named Assistant Vice President

A year ago, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs Mary-Beth Cooper convened a "Wellness Design Task Force," to create a model to enhance the wellness initiatives for students. Now, the work of that group will be put into motion.

The findings of the Task Force highlighted that college is the perfect time to introduce healthy lifestyle choices and wellness education as young adults begin to establish adult lifestyle patterns. As such, the new Student Affairs Wellness Initiative includes 7 dimensions of wellness (career/academic, physical, social, emotional, spiritual, environmental, and financial) and reflects a vision of the synergy that will be vital to enhance the overall health of RIT's student body currently and in the years ahead.

Leading the new plan is Donna Rubin, who has been named Assistant Vice President for the Wellness Initiative. Her team includes Greg Moss, Senior Director of The Center for

Recreation and Intramurals, Michelle Schrouder, Associate Director of the Wellness Instructional Program (which offers more than 550 wellness related classes to students each year), Tim Keady, Associate Director for Wellness, and Karen Pelc, Coordinator for Wellness Education. Rubin notes, "Working with this group of very talented and dedicated professionals to transform the Wellness Initiative into a reality for our students is very exciting. Our collaborative efforts are starting to take off and we're all very energized."

In addition to this team, the Wellness Initiative includes Student Affairs partners from the Counseling Center, the Center for Residence Life, the Center for Women and Gender, the Student Health Center as well as partners from NTID Student and Academic Services.

Several new strategies are underway as the Wellness Initiative unfolds. The first cross-divisional wellness teams are being established to address the following areas: addictions (alcohol, drug, gambling); support and expansion of the Wellness residence floors; establishment of a Peers program of Wellness educators; stress management; relationship skills; fitness; information and educa-

tion dissemination through innovative technology.

Many issues which interfere with student success- including alcohol, tobacco, and drug use, violence, unsafe sexual behavior, relationship issues, suicidal ideation, depression, stress, eating disorders, lack of sleep and other self-care behaviors- can be addressed through comprehensive wellness education programs. Student Affairs has always addressed these difficult issues and the new Wellness Initiative will insure a more collaborative and comprehensive approach.

The Wellness Initiative may begin in Student Affairs, but supporting a culture of wellness at RIT is a university-wide endeavor. We look forward to establishing partnerships across the university as we move forward.



Student Learning, Support & Assessment: Engaging Change

RIT is like the weather in Rochester- if you don't like it, just wait 15 minutes and it will change! The Student Learning, Support & Assessment (SLSA) cluster is embracing the culture, the opportunities, and the excitement of our vibrant campus by committing to moving beyond just accepting change to fully engaging in its potential. In light of the much anticipated semester conversion, the GeneSIS project, and a newly minted division strategic plan as well as the evolution of systems for academic advising and overall student success, SLSA has committed, reorganized, and enhanced our organization structures and project objectives to create a nimble, innovative, and highly responsive team.

This is an ongoing process which was initiated a year ago with some changes in the TRiO Student Support Services and HEOP areas as well as with the College Restoration Program. Earlier this year the cluster brought Jessica Hooper on board in a newly created role as an educational technologist. Her skill and professionalism is a wonderful asset to our group and affords SLSA an elevated platform from which to serve our technically-savvy student body. Beginning this summer, Joshua Bauroth will be transitioning to another new role. Josh will be working with Jodi Boita in the Office of Assessment & Research with a focus on grants and scholarship. This is an exciting opportunity for the cluster but also for the division as a whole and will provide a greater ability from which to explore external funding opportunities as well as promote the excellent work and research done in our teams.

Beyond these individual changes, we are in the process of a revisioning and reorganizing of the Academic Support Center, Academic Intervention & Mentoring Program, and the First Year Enrichment Program. The Academic Support Center is in the midst of a national search for a Senior Director position which will oversee the staff and resources from these areas. An excellent search team has been named and anticipates a robust candidate pool and the identification of a finalist by the end of summer. Additionally, three assistant directors have been identified to serve under the senior director and serve as the leadership team for this newly envisioned unit. Colleen Johnson, Lisa Bodenstedt, and Dan Hickey have been named to these assistant director positions and are already beginning their work. Phase III of this merger will address the roles and responsibilities of the professional staff who have a primary focus on direct student services, teaching and support. SLSA is working toward a model which draws on the core skill sets held across all positions, shared responsibilities, and the creation of a nimble/innovative structure which is responsive to the needs of both the student population and the colleges.

Connecting with Partners from Across the Pond



RIT, and other Rochester area schools, became host to a contingent of student affairs professionals from the United Kingdom in June. Dr. Heath Boice-Pardee, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs worked with NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) to coordinate the exchange including the University of Rochester, Monroe Community College, and SUNY Geneseo. The goal of the visit was to provide student affairs professionals abroad the opportunity to study how higher education institutions in the United States operate.

As part of the visit, the UK delegation met with university-wide leaders at each institution in order to understand history, current issues, practical ideas, trends, and challenges. "Higher education is undergoing dramatic changes in the United Kingdom," Dr. Boice-Pardee notes. "As universities there are moving toward establishing a never before seen fee structure, students are going to look to university leaders for greater accountability. The UK delegates were particularly interested in learning about student assessment and learning outcomes, satisfaction, and how to establish metrics for success."

The six day visit allowed the delegation to spend a day at each school, as well as tour the Rochester area. RIT's Global Village served as the delegates' home base during their entire visit. After the visit, one international delegate commented, "Each day was tightly packed – and we have no complaints at all – only apologies for asking so many questions meaning that we sometimes ran over!"

In the coming weeks, Dr. Boice-Pardee will be participating in a follow-up video conference call to continue the dialogue and conversations with these new international partners. He says, "Student affairs, as a profession, is emerging around the world. It's important for us to assist our international colleagues in assisting students worldwide."

Student Affairs Scholarship and Practice

RIT and student affairs were well represented at the ACPA (College Student Educators International) student affairs convention held in Baltimore, Maryland in March. Here are some of the presentation highlights:

- **Dr. Nicole Boulais** and **Laurie Ackles** (with Andrew Wall, University of Rochester) presented, *Supporting Transitions for College Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders*.
- **Andrew Schewe** presented, *Unspoken Identity: Best Practices for Working with Individuals with Hearing Loss*.
- **Dr. Heath Boice-Pardee** presented *Student affairs around the globe: Bringing unity through continuity; Revisiting a legacy: John Dewey's philosophy and student affairs; and Be our guest: A customer service approach to student affairs*.
- **Dr. Mary-Beth Cooper** presented *Be more confident managing from the middle* with **Heath Boice-Pardee**
- **Dr. Mary-Beth Cooper** presented *Power & Persuasion Understanding your Effect on Others*.
- **Paula French** and **Sara Baryl** presented, *Supporting Academic Success in Student Affairs*.
- **Dawn Soufleris** presented, *Navigating Outside the Norm: The Path from Homeschooling to College*.
- **Sarah Ayers** and **Andrew Beverly** presented, *Involving students in cross-cultural programming*.
- **Sarah Ayers** also co-presented *Meeting the needs of student veterans in higher education* and co-facilitated the session *In with the new: A roundtable for new professionals*.
- **Andrew Beverly** and **Alex Jones** presented, *The Impact of Hearing Privilege on College Campuses*.



RIT Impresses NEACUHO

The Center for Residence Life along with RIT Housing Operations recently hosted the annual conference for the Northeast Association of College & University Housing Officers (NEACUHO). 225 professionals from all over the northeastern United States joined us on campus for three and a half days and attended developmental information sessions, an exhibitor fair with over 40 exhibits, and social and networking activities. Conference participants also had the opportunity to reside in Global Village for their stay with nearly 175 participants enjoyed RIT's newest housing feature. Among the presenters at the conference were:

- **Andrew Schewe** and **Katie Skomra**, presented, *Building Your Legacy as a Supervisor: Best Practices for New Student Staff Supervisors*.
- **Chuck Lamb** and **Joe Johnston** presented, *Mental Health Issues for Residence Hall Students*.

New Student Orientation Shines in the Mid-Atlantic

At this year's Region IX conference of the National Orientation Director's Association in Providence, Rhode Island, RIT's New Student Orientation team presented the following:

- **Amanda Metzger**, Assistant Director, presented, *Putting Your Best Foot Forward: A Look at Ethical Leadership*
- **Joe Kaplan** and **Matt Figliotti**, Student Orientation Coordinators, presented, *College Life 101—A Survival Guide for Students by Students*.
- **Cheryl Mellott**, Graduate Assistant and **Mary Heiermann**, Program & New Initiatives Manager presented, *Leading Your Peers*.
- **Chelsea Bruha** and **Peter Simon**, Student Orientation Coordinators presented, *Communicating with Your Senses*, which was selected as the Regional Showcase Session. Presenters are invited to present at NODA annual conference in New Orleans in October, 2011
- **Shawna Lusk**, Director, and **Mary Heiermann**, presented, *Mapping Out Pre-Orientation Programs*.

Other Presentations and Awards

- **Daniel Greer**, Community Enrichment Coordinator, Center for Residence Life, was elected to the executive board position of *Member-at-Large* for the College Student Personnel Association of New York State (CSPA-NYS) for the 2011-2012 academic year.
- **Molly McGowan**, Taught a two week leadership program in April in Dubai for managers within the Dubai Ministry of Public Works.
- **Charles Lamb** was the keynote speaker at the CSPA/Next Gen Conference
- **Lilli Jensen** presented, *F-1 Advising: Interpreting the Regulations* and *The Importance of Pre- and Post- arrival Orientation for International Students* at the NAFSA (Association of International Educators) conference in Vancouver.
- **Rob Eckhart** and **Joe Johnston** presented, *Lessons Learned from Going Paperless: Using Onbase to Eliminate Paper files* and *Restorative Practices for All* at the ASCA (Association of Student Conduct Administration) conference in St. Pete's Beach, FL.