Koinonia

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JAY BARNES
Vice-President

He is currently vice-president of Student Development at Messiah College. Jay is a graduate of Wheaton College and has an M.A. from the University of Connecticut in Educational Counseling and an Ed.D. in College Student Personnel from Loyola University in Chicago. He is married and has three children.

Jay believes ACSD is unique: "The people of ACSD have the ability to tailor programs, promote professional contacts, and provide personal encouragement in a way that other national organizations of student development professionals cannot do. Through my involvement, I hope to work to continue to offer high quality national conference, broaden our membership base, and build on work already done in placement activities. I would also like the association to support and encourage significant research projects at our institutions to allow us to be more effective in our work."

CHANT THOMPSON

ACSD has endeavored to challenge us to a commitment of service and excellence in the institutions we serve. Jesus Christ expects nothing less than our best. Interaction with those who labor in various capacities in student development has enhanced my perspectives regarding the ongoing thrust we must have as an organization to do everything possible to foster interpersonal communication and program enhancement.

ACSD must broaden its membership base to include more of the Christian personnel working in state colleges and universities. More resource activity on the regional level should help to begin the contact work necessary to initiate greater breadth of involvement.

It is my hope that we will work together as an organization to provide pertinent workshop content and resources to staff that are working in the areas of career planning, student health services and athletics. On so many of our campuses, these departments are growing with tremendous results.

It is refreshing to know there are so many evangelical Christians committed to helping students participate in opportunities for personal growth that encourage the unselfish regard for the needs of others, and respect for the attitudes of each individual as a very special creation of our heavenly Father. ACSD's potential for world wide impact is before us but well within our reach.
ACSD CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The ACSD National Conference is naturally a great opportunity to meet with colleagues, exchange learning experiences, revitalize and reshape our commitments, both personal and professional.

John Brown University is pleased to invite you to the 1984 National Conference “The Campus and Beyond” June 4-7. We are especially excited about the powerful program that the executive committee and you the membership have created.

Dr. Tony Campolo, in his keynote address, will challenge us regarding our awareness and responsibility to the world’s social needs, an avenue for spiritual outreach.

Andrea McAleenan, as pre-conference presenter and key speaker will guide us in the creation of a Student Development Philosophy. Putting it all together, preparing students for lives of service and leadership.

Dr. Charles Lewis and Ruth Irvine, as pre-conference presenters will provide an opportunity for “rediscovering our counseling skills.” A valuable time for refining skills and discovering that we are effective counselors.

Arkansas is a Natural! Siloam Springs and John Brown University. A little hard to find, but well worth the effort. We hope that you will plan to attend this year’s National Conference; you won’t be disappointed. Naturally! Registration forms are in the mail, watch for yours.

JOY DeBOER
Membership & Treasurer

At present Joy is the Dean of Women at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan. She has A B.A. from Calvin College and an M.S.W. from the University of Denver.

My hope is that ACSD will continue to strive towards meeting the purposes set forth by the constitution. I would especially desire that we work on increasing the membership in the organization of Christians who are working on secular campuses. We need to plan conferences and write articles which will help us develop expertise in the field of student development, and which will be pertinent and meaningful to Christians on secular as well as Christian campuses.

NORRIS FRIESEN

As Associate Dean of Student Development at Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kansas, Norris has varied responsibility. Resident life, new student orientation, student activities, and varied committee work make up his position. He has an M.S. in Student Personnel Administration from Kansas State University and a B.A. in German from Tabor College. Norris is married and has two children.

Current student development literature and research offers us new and innovative ideas, but very few if any offer us an integration model of faith and Student Development theory. I feel ACSD offers the profession that unique mix of creative ideas and solid faith integration. I hope that ACSD will continue to reach out to other Christian professionals and create the kind of situation that will encourage this kind of integration of faith, living and learning.

DENNIS WILLIAMS

Currently Dennis serves as Dean of Students at Fort Wayne Bible in Indiana. During his undergraduate work he attended Millersville State Teachers College, Pennsylvania State and Lancaster Bible College. He holds an M.A. from Indiana University. Dennis is married and has two children.

As Membership Chairman and Treasurer, Dennis would be committed on the growth of ACSD and a greater degree of organization. He has been an active supporter of ACSD for the past five years.

EDITORIAL by Brent Garrison

I can’t believe that I am nearing the end of another year of school. With each year in Christian education I would like to think that I have learned from past errors and from the mistakes of others. Yet, I find myself a “stiff-necked people” such as Israel in Deuteronomy 9. Sure I have learned much, but not nearly as much as I desire to learn or need to learn. Maybe I’m too hard on myself for being so critical of my “learning disorder”, but then I consider the ministry to which I am involved, that being the developing of young men and women for Christ’s kingdom. The responsibility often catches me and causes me to do some self-assessment in order to keep my heart and mind motivated in one proper direction.

At times I have felt myself becoming cynical and critical of students and even co-workers. Sometimes I put myself in Garrison’s Book of Student Personnel Martyrs, and remind God all that I am doing for the “cause”. Oh, but the grace of God and my Savior Jesus Christ, and His abiding love for me each day. Why do I have these feelings that cause me to be less effective than I should? Well, congratulations Satan, you have again moved the lens of my eye from my redeemer to the redeemed. Although they have the same root word, there is a tremendous difference in their performance. LORD God, maker of all I see, make me even as a horse with blinders on that keeps me looking to Christ as author and finisher of our faith. Every time I make man the measure of my faith, I become disappointed and critical of their inconsistencies.

I’m sorry to admit my shortcomings, but I believe I become critical when I take my eyes off my Lord and therefore lose the one who sets the example for me to follow. Praise God for giving us a vision of God in Christ and a challenge to emulate Him in our life to a world that needs desperately to see what man can potentially become. Thank God for giving us all the opportunity to be that “living epistle, not written with human hands” to those students He has provided. Amen.

P.S. Hope to see you at John Brown University in June!
Snap judgments occur instantaneously, but have ongoing implications. They affect both the ministry and job effectiveness of the Dean, Resident Director, and Resident Assistant. It is therefore important to answer some important questions. 1) How and why are snap judgments made? 2) What are snap judgments based upon? 3) How do snap judgments affect the Student Development process? and 4) How should our Christianity affect the snap judgments we make?

How and Why are Snap Judgments Made?

Snap judgments are made when we apply stereotypes to people, who we do not know well, based on their appearance, behavior, or surroundings. Because we are constantly receiving input from our environment, we reduce the complexity by establishing categories and labels. Therefore, one reason we make snap judgments and put people into "slots" is to make sense of our world. A second reason we made snap judgments is for our own interpersonal comfort. Labeling people as "boring" or "threatening" allows us to avoid uncomfortable encounters with them. When avoidance is impossible, snap judgment shold us predict what conversation topics will be appropriate.

What are Snap Judgments Based Upon?

Snap judgments are often based on appearance. This includes more permanent characteristics like facial features, skin and hair color, and gender, as well as more transient aspects of appearance like clothing and hair style. Snap judgments are also based on behavior; both verbal and nonverbal. Salient verbal tone and content produces a snap judgment. We have been socialized to regard nonverbal behavior as either positive or negative. Therefore, the appropriateness of a person's actions leads us to make snap judgments. Context or surroundings can give us information to make snap judgments. Where a person is, who they are with, and what time it is can make us draw conclusions about them.

How Do Snap Judgments Affect the Student Development Process?

Snap judgments affect two major areas of Student Development: relationships and discipline. Negative snap judgments can hinder building relationships because we want to avoid a person who looks boring or uncomfortably different from us. We are in reality being selfish because we want to enjoy ourselves, and we feel we don't have time to spend with people who don't have anything to offer us in return. We also avoid people due to anxiety. If they appear rebellious or unfriendly, we fear confrontation and rejection. We want to live in a peaceful world and don't want to face the truth of trouble and ambiguity.

Avoiding boring or unfriendly people because of our own selfishness and anxiety keeps us from a friendship and a ministry with them. We hold them in a negative box and refuse to let them change. This is a lack of faith. We do not envision and hope for what the person can become, but limit them to what they are. We lose opportunities with others also because we project these negative snap judgments on their friends as well.

Inaccurate snap judgments can lead to unjust discipline. Applying a negative stereotype to a person may cause us to place blame on them because we assume they would be guilty, even though we are not certain. False accusations and unfair discipline can harm their reputation and possibly their future plans. Suspending or dismissing an innocent student would indeed change their future and could cause bitterness as well. The credibility of the Student Development staff member would also be damaged.

How Should Our Christianity Affect Our Snap Judgments?

If we are to avoid the negative affects of incorrect snap judgments, we must learn how to control our own desires, anxieties, and misperceptions. The words of God and the example of Christ give us helpful guidelines.

First, we must remember that each person is created in the image of God, is infinitely valuable, and is worthy of our time. Secondly, we must recognize the power of sin that exists in a person's life to lead to rebellion, unfriendliness, etc. Third, let us see our own limitations in making correct judgments of others and thus pray for wisdom from God.

Although God sees us as we are, sinners, He actively sought to remove that label from us by sending His Son. He did not hold us in a box, but gave us a chance to become more than we were. Throughout Christ's life He looked past the externals of a person and saw them as a needy person. He did not judge what He saw at face value, but focused on the eternal.

We must follow the example that Christ sets for us. Our life, like His, must be characterized by truth and grace. To see the truth, we must pray for the mind of Christ, that the Spirit makes possible as He indwells us. (I Cor. 2:16) We must meditate on the excellent things (Phil. 4:8) so that we see the good in people and don't dwell on the negative. If we are to err in our judgments, let us err graciously towards people's benefit, rather than against them.

Above all, let us live a life of faith that causes us to look beyond what people are, to what they can become. Holding people in a negative mold by our snap judgments limits our anticipation of God's working in their life.

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BRENT GARRISON
Editor

Brent received his B.A. from Indiana University, an M.A. from Grace Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. in Educational Administration. He has served as dean at LeTourneau College for the past six years and will be going to Moody Bible Institute as Dean of Students in June of this year. Brent is married with one son.

As editor of ACSD his responsibility has been the writing of the newsletter, the KOINONIA, and formulated the idea of a yearly collection of articles written by members of ACSD. This collection should develop into a professional journal within the next few years which focuses on topics related to Student Personnel ministries.

DAVID ROADCAP

Serves as Dean of Students of Cincinnati Bible Seminary. He has a B.A. from Lincoln Christian College with a teaching certificate in speech. Presently he is working on his Master's Thesis at Cincinnati Christian Seminary. David is married and has two daughters.

ACSD has impressed David greatly and he feels that the organization of conferences are of great importance. The position of editor is important since he is responsible for communication and encouraging professional growth.
Bob Dauner of Houghton College asked that mention be made for future regional conferences. The date has been set to have the conferences during the first Saturday of November: November 3, 1984 at Kings College, Jim Hisey host. November 2, 1985 at Brookshire Christian College, Sam Warren, host.

This past year's conference was at Philadelphia College of the Bible on November 5. A variety of subjects were presented because of interest expressed by ACSD members in the northeast region. Larry McKinney, Dean of Students at Philadelphia College of the Bible, was the host.

**1984 NASPA NATIONAL CONFERENCE: ACSD: A Common Agenda**

The 1984 NASPA National Conference convened in Louisville, Kentucky on March 18 with the theme, "Promises to Keep". During one pre-conference workshop a group of Christians working in our profession gathered to identify common concerns.

The approach of this workshop was to develop an agenda for future consideration. Here then is the list which was developed:

1. Computer software presently utilized in Student Development
2. Helper vs. Counselor roles
3. Building community and enhancing the quality of campus life
4. Research in Student Development
5. Student Development transcripts
6. Re-active vs. Pro-active approach to problems.
7. Emotional needs: increased suicide gestures on campus
8. Leadership development
9. Bridge building between Student Development Administration and Faculty
10. Meeting the needs of non-traditional student
11. Creative responses to discipline
12. Tools for evaluating our programs
13. Colleges' reluctance to promote courses in sexuality
14. Mentor programs-Practical tips
15. Developing a statement of philosophy
16. Student outreach programs

This list is extremely helpful as it reflects common concerns of professionals across the country. In response, ACSD should strive to address these issues. Some areas would best be explored by a broad research design which surveys the entire ACSD membership to determine "what is"... in such areas as computer software, the use of student development transcripts, and student outreach programs.

ACSD is a valuable contribution by organizing task forces which are specifically commissioned to develop working papers which provide a positive approach to some concerns listed. The concerns for enhancing campus life; creative responses to discipline; and development of a statement of philosophy are all areas where the ACSD can provide leadership.

Finally, many of these concerns will be discussed at the National ACSD Conference: June 4-7 at John Brown University.