

## Message from the Chair

Laura Rasar King, Executive Director, Council on Education for Public Health

With my first message as ASPA Chair, I would like to thank the members for supporting me in the election this past Spring. Our former Chair, Neil Harvison, deserves recognition for his leadership the past three years. Neil will remain on the Board for another year, and I look forward to working with him and the entire Board as we continue the work of the association.



Since the beginning of 2014, ASPA has been active in the world of higher education and accreditation:

- We finalized a position paper with recommendations for the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA). This has been shared with the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI).
- We signed on to an amicus brief to defend an accreditation principle for a ruling against an accreditor.
- We participated on a panel at the annual meeting of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.
- We provided commentary on the President's proposed College Ratings System.
- We participated in a meeting led by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation to provide advice to Congress about excessive government regulation in higher education.

- We spoke at a meeting of the European Alliance for Subject-Specific and Professional Accreditation and Quality Assurance (EASPA) and participated in the adjoining International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAHE) meeting held in Tallinn, Estonia.

While it appears that the reauthorization of the HEA may not make much progress in 2014, we will continue to deliver the message about the role and importance of specialized and professional accreditation to our communities of interest.

The Board had a very productive meeting in May, with discussions on several items, including: dues structure, staffing, and projects to be rolled out the second part of this year. A legal review of the bylaws and articles of incorporation was performed – proposed amendments will be brought to the next annual meeting for Member review and approval.

We will have a strategic conversation with the Members at our September meeting in Arlington to evaluate ASPA's direction and start prioritizing initiatives for the upcoming years. There will be a survey distributed over the summer to help guide the discussion, and I encourage members to contribute ideas for this important activity.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge all of our members who participate on task forces and committees. The work done by our volunteers is invaluable. Our association's success is in large part due to the contributions of those individuals. Thank you. ▲

## Fall 2014 - Educational Program - *Risk Management for Accreditors*

In this litigious world, accreditors need to pay close attention to how they do business. The concept of risk management crosses several areas of concern, including: engagement of the accreditation decision-making body, fiduciary duties of care and loyalty in the accreditation setting, due process in accreditation decision-making, appeals and complaint procedures, and indemnification and insurance.

Attendees will learn about various issues related to risk management and gain ideas for enhancing the effectiveness of their accreditation operations.

Plan to attend this session on **Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>** (1:00 - 5:00 pm) and **Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>** (8:30 am - 12:00 pm) at the Westin Arlington Gateway, Arlington VA. Click [upcoming-meetings](#) for the registration form and agenda.

## ASPA Spring Conference 2014

The spring conference and annual meeting in Chicago included presentations on innovation in education, quality improvement for accreditors, volunteer recruitment and explaining the value of accreditation to the public. We honored our volunteers and held elections for Board and Nominations Committee positions.

### Awards

The Board identified two recipients of the Cynthia A. Davenport Award: Mary Jane Harris and Susan Zlotlow. The award is presented for exceptional effort on behalf of specialized and professional accreditors. The intent is to honor an individual whose contributions have promoted the importance of accreditation to the quality of higher education in the United States, and the importance of specialized and professional accreditation to a variety of disciplines and professions.



*Cynthia A. Davenport Award Recipients  
Susan Zlotlow (L), Mary Jane Harris (R)*

**Susan Zlotlow** currently serves as the Director of the Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation and Associate Executive Director of the Education Directorate at the American Psychology Association. She chairs the External Recognition Issues Committee (ERIC) of ASPA, and has been involved with that committee since 2007 - leading the constant analysis of the environment and subsequent proposals for responses and positions for the association on important issues. She represented ASPA as a negotiator in the 2007 Negotiated Rulemaking sessions on accreditation issues in the Higher Education Act. She served for two terms as a member of the Specialized/National Advisory Panel to the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). Susan's dedication to promoting the importance of accreditation has been demonstrated over and over by her intense volunteer participation and service to the community. We thank her for her commitment, diligent service and ongoing contributions.

**Mary Jane Harris** is the Director of the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) of the American Physical Therapy Association. She has been actively involved with ASPA, including serving on the Board of Directors as both Chair and Vice-Chair. Additionally, she has served as the Chair

or as a member of numerous ASPA Committees and Task Forces. She has served on the CHEA Specialized/National Advisory Panel, and was recently appointed as a member of the Committee on Recognition for that organization. She has been invited to present in various forums for different accreditation stakeholders and participated in the USDE Summit on the Future of Higher Education and the Accreditation Forum. Mary Jane embodies the spirit of the Cynthia A. Davenport Award based on her professional service to the higher education community. Her contributions are greatly appreciated.

The following individuals were presented with certificates in appreciation of their service on ASPA committees and the Board:

- Dianne Cearlock - member of the Spring Professional Development Committee, May 2008 - April 2014,
- Peter H. Vlasses - Chair and Treasurer of the Board, May 2008 - April 2014,
- Pauletta Brown Bracy - member and Vice-Chair of the Board, May 2008 - April 2014,
- Neil Harvison - Chair of the Board, May 2011 - April 2014,
- Ulric Chung - member of the Board, May 2011 - July 2013, and
- Mary Jane Harris - member of the Nominations Committee, May 2012 - April 2014.

### Elections

- Crystal Calarusse was elected to the Board in the category of ASPA Member Accreditation Staff Officer.
- Tess Kirsch was elected to the Board in the category of ASPA Member Accreditation Staff Officer.
- Elaine Molaison was elected to the Board in the category of Academic Member.
- Laura Rasar King was elected Chair of the Board.
- Neil Harvison was elected Vice-Chair of the Board.
- Sue Graves was elected Chair of the Nominations Committee.
- Patrima Tice was elected to the Nominations Committee.
- Jan Winn was elected to the Nominations Committee. ▲



## Welcome new Board Members

**Tess Kirsch** has been working with the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and its accreditation program since 1996 and currently serves as the Associate Director of Accreditation for Policy and Education. She oversees the orientation and training of council members and site visitors, develops



academic program education resources and activities, advises on policy development, and monitors external recognition requirements and legislation. Tess' first exposure to accreditation was working for the Committee on Recognition for Postsecondary Accreditation (CORPA) - the interim agency between COPA and CHEA that focused on continuing the non-governmental recognition of accrediting agencies. She has been active in ASPA and has served on the Membership, Nominations, and Professional Development committees.

Tess has a bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders from Buffalo State College and earned a master's degree in educational policy, planning, and administration from the University of Maryland, College Park. She is originally from Syracuse, NY and enjoys a good baseball game, hopefully with a beverage in hand.

**Elaine Fontenot Molaison** is currently a Professor, Assistant Chair and the Director of the Dietetic Internship in the Department of Nutrition and Food Systems at The University of Southern Mississippi. She teaches, conducts research, and manages dietetics programs. She obtained her BS in Dietetics from the University of Southwestern Louisiana. She completed her dietetic internship and Master of Science degree in



Nutrition and Dietetics at Louisiana Tech and earned a PhD in Nutrition and Food Systems from The University of Southern Mississippi. She has published several articles related to her research and has presented her research findings at state and national levels.

Dr. Molaison is very active in service to the profession through dietetics accreditation. After becoming a program reviewer in 2002, she was appointed to the board for the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education in 2008. In 2012-2013, she was elected Chair of the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). She has chaired the ACEND standards committee since 2010. She is an active member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Nutrition and Dietetic Educators and Preceptors practice group. ▲

## ASPA Fall Conference 2014

### Preliminary Program

September 7 - 9, 2014

Westin Arlington Gateway, Arlington VA

### **Pre-meetings (for ASPA members)**

*Members are requested to indicate their interest in attending these sessions.*

#### **Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 am - 10:30 am - **ASAHP/ NN2/ CAAHEP**  
(of interest to healthcare accreditors)

10:45 am - 11:45 am - **ASPA Chair and CEO**  
**Executive Round Table**

12:30 pm - 5:00 pm - **Member session**  
*Members are invited to send requests for discussion topics to the ASPA office or to any of the members of the Board by August 10, 2014.*

### **Conference (for all registrants)**

#### **Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm - **Opening Reception**

#### **Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 am - 10:00 am - **Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act...and other Concerns**

10:30 am - 12:00 pm - **Innovation in Education**

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm - **Risk Management for Accreditors** (See page 1 for program description)

5:15 pm - 6:45 pm - **Reception**

#### **Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 am - 12:00 pm - **Risk Management for Accreditors continues**

Go to [www.aspa-usa.org/upcoming-meetings](http://www.aspa-usa.org/upcoming-meetings) for registration forms and schedules.



## Become a Member

*...the authoritative voice of specialized and professional accreditation...*

The Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors provides a collaborative forum and a collective voice for the community of approximately 60 member accreditors that assess the quality of programmatic higher education programs and schools in the United States. We are the only organization that promotes the importance of specialized and professional accreditation.

Some of the benefits of full membership in ASPA include:

- **A unified and common voice** for issues of importance to programmatic accreditation and higher education nationally.
- **Networking and peer interaction** in conference settings; participating in a community of programmatic accreditors; sharing good practices in carrying out accreditation work and improving performance.
- **Professional development** for volunteers, staff and educators and opportunities to learn from other accreditors.
- **Current information** on important issues and developments.



- **Advocacy** to broader communities including higher education, government, institutional accreditors, and recognition bodies.
- **Enhancement of the credibility and image of accreditation** through endorsement of the ASPA-Member Code of Good Practice that embraces a high standard of professionalism and integrity in the conduct of accreditation operations and promotes quality in education and respect for institutional autonomy.
- **Member services** include regular newsletters to the broad community and e-letters within the membership; development of position papers on issues and good practices; in person and written representation on programmatic accreditation on legislation and recognition issues to stakeholders; a proprietary database of member profiles and organization structure; a periodic compensation survey; and access to a private e-list to gather and share information within the membership.

### ASPA also welcomes Organizational and Individual Affiliate Members

- **Organizations** with an interest in education and quality assurance that do not meet the criteria for full membership as programmatic accreditors, e.g., professional associations, continuing education providers, regional accreditors, national institutional accreditors, and vendors.
- **Individuals** interested in the mission and purposes of ASPA, such as persons serving as accreditation directors within institutions, faculty, staff of professional associations, peer reviewers, education consultants, curriculum designers, deans, and program directors.

Visit [www.aspa-usa.org](http://www.aspa-usa.org) for more information and to apply for membership. ▲

## ASPA Annual Meeting and Spring Conference 2015

March 29 - 31, 2015 – Chicago, IL

In addition to topical presentations and discussions on current issues in accreditation and higher education, we're issuing a **Call for Presentations**. We will accept a broad range of topics of interest to our members. Proposals are due July 15, 2014. [Click here for details.](#)

**Also** – consider extending your stay to attend the **INQAAHE** (International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education) **2015 Conference** that follows the ASPA Conference. [Click here for details.](#)

**Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to join us in the Windy City!**

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