Greetings KC Members!

Our Knowledge Community strives to make current research and best practices in the functional area of parent and family relations available to you, our members. As you look through the newsletter you will find areas to provide feedback so that we can continue to use our KC as a way to share resources and connect with others. If you are interested in submitting an article, or if you have any suggestions for future topics of exploration, please feel free to send your ideas to either of the editors. We look forward to your feedback!

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Join us on Facebook

We also invite you to share information on the page. Simply search NASPA Parent and Family Relations KC on Facebook and “LIKE” the page once you’ve found us. We hope to see you online soon!
Parent & Family Relations  
**KC Turns 10!**

*Let’s take a look at how far we’ve come over the past 10 years.*

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## Hot Topics

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<td>&quot;Helicopter&quot; parents: (dealing with them, involving them in a positive way, recognizing they are not going to go away, helping student support staff understand the parents of today)</td>
<td>FERPA and the different ways each institution shares information (public vs. private institutions)</td>
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<td>Types of services institutions are providing to parents</td>
<td>Parent and families understanding of financial aid resources available to students and how to complete paperwork.</td>
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<td>Increase in parental involvement due to the proliferation of the Millennial student</td>
<td>Communicating with parents in regards to heightened safety and security concerns as a result of recent campus and school tragedies and acts of violence</td>
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<td>Managing parents seeking more involvement in academic arenas (i.e. course selection)</td>
<td>Working with parents and families of students with disabilities (mental and physical)</td>
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<td>How much program support to expect from the institution</td>
<td>Career Services at institutions, possibility of internships for students and success of job placement after college</td>
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<td>Creating a parent association</td>
<td>Campus Safety protocols</td>
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<td>Ways to engage parents via technology- (i.e., internet surveys, resources, information, and event announcements)</td>
<td>Understanding who parents are and what they expect of the institution</td>
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Our KC began in 2004 under the leadership of Joyce Shotick and Carolyn Stirling. Due to the escalation of parent and family involvement in higher education, there became an obvious need for a professional knowledge community to create best practices for working with this population. At the first meeting members compiled a list of “Hot Topics, Compelling Issues, and New Trends” facing parents and families in higher education. Members engaged in dialogue about these issues and worked to discover literature and research that would inform their practice.

The KC was still relatively young in 2007 and was still working to establish its operating principles and overall structure. The focus was on recruiting and building a leadership team for the KC. At the same time, the national field of Parent Relations was still in the rapid growth stage. Much of our work was focused on providing a network for professionals who work in this area to come together and share ideas and approaches to their work.

A key component to creating the network was the development of the pre-conference institute. The first one was held in 2007 as a result of the leadership of Carolyn Stirling and Joyce Shotick. The first institute was very successful and cemented the need for ongoing engagement in the years to come. Hot topics at this time included issues such as; fundraising, programming, and developing parent advisory boards.

Joyce Shotick
Co-Chair
2004-2007

Carolyn Stirling
Co-Chair
2004-2009

Ryan Lombardi
Co-Chair
2007-2010

Anna Carey
Co-Chair
2009-2010
Initiated in June 2007, under the leadership of Richard Mullendore and backed by NASPA and Student Voice, the KC supported a longitudinal study related to parental involvement and the impact on student development. Five campuses participated in the study that concluded in the winter of 2011. *Study results are available in a variety of NASPA publications and conference archives.*

Several other notable efforts included forming a partnership with University Parent Media to host an annual social at NASPA, and the creation of a Facebook page by our then communication gurus Jeanine Ward-Roof and Laura Page.

**2014 (Today)**

New developments in the KC have come through additions to the KC Newsletter, the revamping of our social media outlets (i.e. Facebook and Twitter), and efforts to engage constituents by asking for members to assist the KC in highlighting new research. This year our goal has not only been to increase our depth and breadth of disseminated information, but also to escalate our support of our regional constituents.

Today, the purpose of the Parent and Family Relations KC is to identify, promote, and share current research best practices in the area of college parenting. Additionally, the KC seeks to provide valuable information on interacting with parents of college students via programming, compilations of current literature, and web resources. Our KC also strives to keep members connected through emails and phone chats and serves as the central part of a network of professionals interested in Parent Relations.

Many of the issues identified in 2004 remain salient today. Thanks to the pioneers in this area the literature is ripe with research on college students and their parents. Although the focus may change ever so slightly—as technology aids our communication efforts—the work still continues. We look to the past to understand where we have come and we look forward to a robust future filled with progress and development in the field of Parent and Family Relations.

*Happy 10th Birthday, Parent & Family Relations Knowledge Community!*
The Reading Corner.

Professional reading can sometimes take a back seat as you go about your daily tasks. As assistance to your reading list, we have provided three suggestions to enhance your understanding of parents and family involvement in higher education.

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**College Students’ Perspectives on Parental Notification and Parent-Student Communication on Student Alcohol Use**


by M. Cosden, J. R. Gauthier, & J. B. Hughes

Research confirms that parents still have an influence on student behavior even in college and coupled with efforts to reduce high-risk alcohol consumption in college student, the parental notification exception to FERPA was born. This study suggests that informing parents of the violation isn’t enough if we want true developmental changes; rather, student affairs professionals need to provide tips on how to communicate with their students about alcohol consumption. The authors suggested that “student affairs personnel can use these incidents as opportunities to provide students with information on services such as counseling, drug and alcohol treatment, and legal counsel, which could help them through this period and prevent future problems.” (p. 429). This same suggestion could apply to our interactions with parents. This is an interesting read from our own NASPA publication.

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**Helping Or Hovering? The Effects Of Helicopter Parenting On College Students’ Well Being**


This study examines if there is a dark side of parental involvement in college student lives. The literature is replete with information about the positive outcomes for parents who are very or overly involved in their students’ lives. This study found that students who have true “helicopter parents” are more likely to have depression and a diminished sense of personal autonomy. Besides it findings, this article has an excellent description of helicopter parenting behaviors as well as an excellent bibliography.

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**Do as I Say, Not As You Perceive: Examining the Roles of Perceived Parental Knowledge and Perceived Parental Approval in College Students’ Alcohol-Related Approval and Behavior**


by J. F. Hummer, J. W. LaBrie, & P. J. Ehret

If you need research that demonstrates to parents that they still have influence their student’s alcohol-related behaviors, this is the study you need. The study found students overestimated their parent’s approval of college student drinking and overestimated parents approval of their own child’s drinking. This study is helpful when considering the conversations that we have with parents after a parental notification letter has been sent.
2014 NASPA Conference

Parent and Family Relations Conference Programs

The 2014 NASPA Conference is March 16 – 19 in Baltimore, Maryland. Preconference sessions will be held on March 15 and 16. During the conference, there will be a number of programs that speak to the topic of parent and family, for your convenience we have highlighted a few below.

**NASPA Communities Fair**
Monday, March 17
7:00pm—9:00pm
Key Ballroom – (7-12) – Hilton

**Parent and Family Relations KC Annual Business Meeting**
Tuesday, March 18
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
Johnson – (A) – Hilton

**Data on How Parents Are Paying For College and Their Opinions About How Colleges Use The Money**
Tuesday, March 18th
3:25pm—4:15pm
346 Convention Center
Presenters: Justin Alger, Brian Mistler, & Pat Mizak

**Orienting Parents and Families: How Is Higher Education Serving the Parents of Students of Color First-Generation and Low-Income Students?**
Tuesday, March 18th
11:05am—11:55am
336 Convention Center
Presenters: Casandra Harper, Judy Marquez Kiyama, Da’vid Aguayo, Delma Ramos, Laura Page

For more conference information please be sure to visit the following link: [http://conference2014.naspa.org/](http://conference2014.naspa.org/)

Regional Conferences:
Consider submitting a program to your Regional conference about your work. It’s another way to interest our colleagues in the importance of the parent relationship. Your regional conference session could be your dry run for a 2015 NASPA Conference submission.