



# Region 6 Stormcast

Summer 2007 – Innovation

ACUI Region 6 – Alabama, Bermuda, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Puerto Rico

## 2006-2008 LEADERSHIP TEAM

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2007 Recreation Tournament Coordinator  
VACANT

## Student Representatives:

Katie Shepherd, University of Central Florida  
Mheer Walavalkar, Georgia Institute of Technology  
Sadie Molinet, Florida State University  
Stephanie Knight, Florida State University  
Annie Hoe, Florida State University

## OPEN POSITIONS

Region Director  
2007 College Bowl Coordinator  
2007 Recreation Tournament Coordinator  
2008 Conference Coordinator

## A Common Bond: Annual Conference Recap

*J Douglas Saunders*

*Director of the University Center and Auxiliary Services  
The University of Alabama in Huntsville*

As the 2007 Annual ACUI conference came to a close, I found myself reflecting on the experiences that I gained over the past 2 years as a member of the Conference Program Team (CPT). With any major undertaking, the tasks were daunting, the hours long, and the obstacles were overwhelming at times. On more than one occasion, I found myself questioning my reason for volunteering for such a large commitment.

Over the years, I had conversed with previous members of CPT's who willingly and openly shared their opinions and their diverse experiences, both positive and negative, with me. Upon reflection, some of those conversations ended with my mouth open and my mind repeating "wow" over and over again. I continued to listen to these seasoned professionals and take in as much information as I could. With each conversation, I noticed that a common thread emerged. No matter how challenging the overall CPT experience was, I never heard anyone say that they wished they had not volunteered. They stated that the experience, skills, friendships, challenges, insight, and rewards by far exceeded the requirements of being a member of a CPT.

After the conference, I returned to my campus and was immediately thrown back in to the realities of our everyday responsibilities. As a Student Union Director, I am constantly assessing the opportunities that are available to our students. Like most campuses, we face challenges in the areas of student commitment, involvement, follow through and volunteerism.

Prior to my CPT experience, a lot of my energies were focused on convincing our students that it was their personal responsibility to get involved and take advantage of the opportunities that were being presented to them. It was my mission to convince each student that their involvement was imperative to the success of our overall campus life program. This approach had its successes, but never seemed to quite reach the level of dedication, loyalty and consistency that I was looking for.

*(Continued on page 4)*

**Emory University to host regional conference  
October 12-14, 2007 in Atlanta.**

**Book your Hotel now!**

Reservations can be made now by calling the Holiday Inn Decatur at 404.371.0204

**Interested in presenting a session?**

please email Jeff Martin at [jeffrey.martin@emory.edu](mailto:jeffrey.martin@emory.edu)

EMORY



## Board of Trustees Update

By Rich Steele, ACUI President-Elect

You may wonder what the ACUI Board of Trustees (BOT) has been up to since the Annual Conference in Atlanta – but maybe not. Anyway, this is a brief update in case you have any level of curiosity.

The BOT meets monthly via conference call with all 10 members and legal council. We function primarily through three working committees that also meet monthly and an Executive Committee that meets every week. Below is a brief description of the responsibilities of the committees.

The Finance Committee is responsible for assisting the board in ensuring the organization is in good fiscal health. The Governance Committee is responsible for ongoing review and recommendations to enhance the quality and future viability of the board. The Strategic Direction Committee is responsible for organizing and overseeing the development, assessment, and communication of the strategic plan. The strategic direction committee will enhance the quality and future viability of the association by providing a blueprint for a well-considered plan to keep the association moving in a unified direction. The Executive Committee is responsible for working in support of, or occasionally in place of, the full board. The committee is comprised of three permanent members – the President, the President-Elect, and the Executive Director.

Much more detail is available on the ACUI web about the BOT under “About ACUI>Board of Trustees”.

In addition to regular conference calls and many e-mail messages, the BOT meets for 3 days prior to the start of the Annual Conference and for 3 days in Bloomington, Indiana in July. The full ACUI volunteer leadership team also meets in advance of the Annual Conference and at the July meeting in order to coordinate on significant issues with the BOT.

So, now that you understand how we are organized, it is important to understand what the BOT does. In ACUI, the Executive Director, Marsha Herman-Betzen, reports to the BOT and has responsibility for managing the day-to-day operations of the Association. The BOT focuses on governance and strategic issues, not on operational issues.

Below is a brief synopsis of some of the items taken up by the BOT to give a sense of what items come under consideration:

- development of new task force charges to address strategic issues
- appointment of Ed Council co-chair
- elections committee – timeline and plans for 2008
- volunteer effectiveness, new board member orientation, board knowledge
- review of Diversity and Community Think Tank reports and plans for follow-up
- review and approval of first quarter financial statement/amended 2007 budget
- approval of dues increase for 2008
- approval of 2008 New Orleans Conference Program Team budget
- assessment of policies related to fund management and areas of potential risk
- component group volunteer action plans (implementation of strategic plan)



### ***WE NEED YOU!***

For Additional information please check our website at <http://region6.acui.org/Region/06> or email Kim Harrington, Regional Director at [k.harrington@gatech.edu](mailto:k.harrington@gatech.edu)

### ***REGIONAL LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES***

- ❖ Administration, Finance & Management Ed Council
- ❖ 2007 College Bowl Coordinator
- ❖ 2007 Recreation Tournament Coordinator

### ***CONSIDER BEING A CONFERENCE HOST!***

- We need a home for the following:
- 2008 College Bowl/Recreation Tournament
  - 2008 Regional Conference
  - 2009 College Bowl/Recreation Tournament
  - 2009 Regional Conference



## HAVE YOU SEEN OUR WEBSITE LATELY? COME CHAT WITH US!

The image shows a screenshot of the ACUI Region 6 website. The website header features the ACUI logo and the text 'Region 6' with a list of states: Alabama, Bermuda, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Puerto Rico. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: Home Page, Member Institutions, Operating Procedures, Hosting Opportunities, Open RLTT Positions, Annual Conference. A 'Mark your calendars!' section highlights the 'Regional Conference October 12-14, 2007' hosted by Emory University in Atlanta. There is also a 'Interested in presenting a session?' section. On the right side, there is a Facebook chat window titled 'ACUI Region 6 Chat' showing a conversation between users. At the bottom right, there is a 'We're also on facebook' logo for the 'Group: ACUI Region 6'.



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## ACUI Region 6 College Bowl and Recreation Tournaments 2007

By Michael Coleman

Once again, ACUI Region 6 did it BIG. This past spring Florida State University hosted the combined College Bowl and Recreation Tournament for 2006-2007. There was great turn out with both, as schools from Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and Puerto Rico turned out to participate.

The College Bowl competition took on a familiar rivalry as University of Florida, Florida State University and University of Georgia battled it out for top honors. In the end UF finished first with UGA and FSU taking second and third. The Recreation Tournament saw great competition as well. University of Puerto Rico took top honors in Men's Table Tennis, as the Lady Gators of UF took the top spot for Women's Table Tennis. University of Florida continued their winning ways, as they were also winners in billiards competition. Other highlights of the Rec Tournament were the Seminoles of Florida State taking victory in the bowling tournament. Overall there was great participation from all over the region. Region 6 would like to thank all the schools that participated, host school Florida State, College Bowl Coordinator Brandon Chong and Rec Coordinator Leslie Beach.

# On the Road

## FROM THE REGION DIRECTOR...

**Innovation** - To introduce something new.

With that in mind, I'd like to hear from you. Some of us have been in the field for years while others are relatively new. Let's share ideas, collectively celebrate our successes while challenging us all to be great. So go ahead... toot your horn! What are you doing on your college union that has added a new twist to programming, marketing, retail or facility operations? How are you building community on your campus? I'd like to see each school represented in our next newsletter with an innovative idea from their union. Please send your responses to me at [K.Harrington@gatech.edu](mailto:K.Harrington@gatech.edu).

### New Regional Director Selected



Kim Harrington (Left) and Suzi Halpin the incoming Region Director at the Summer RLT meeting at Emory.

Suzanne Halpin has been selected to serve as the incoming Regional Director. Suzi is currently the Director of the Student Union at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. She brings a wealth of knowledge, significant experience, and tremendous enthusiasm to the

position. Suzi will officially transition into the Regional Director role at the conclusion of our regional conference at Emory University this fall.

### Congratulations Are in Order

- Michael Coleman has recently joined the Student Center Programs staff at the Georgia Institute of Technology as an Associate Program Director.
- Jeff Martin was recently promoted to the Director of the Dobbs University Center at Emory University.
- William Clutter, Director of the Oglesby Union at Florida State University, was recently appointed as co-chair of the Auxiliary Services Educational Council for the Association.
- Morolake' Laosebikan-Buggs from Florida A&M University has been selected to serve on the ACUI Conference Program Team for the 2009 conference in Anaheim, Calif.
- Ryan O'Connel, Florida State, Past-Region Leader, has accepted a position at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) as the Coordinator for First Year Programs and will begin July 9th.

**Please join me in congratulating our colleagues! Go SIXERS!**

**Do you have news to share with the Region? Please let me know and we'll spread the good word!**

*(Continued from Saunders, Conference Recap, page 1)*

With a tremendous amount of reflection on my CPT experience, input from my staff and students, and the commitment to embrace change, I embarked on a mission to reinvent the opportunities being presented to our students. I no longer have the expectation that "if we present it, they should come". Rather than gently intimidating students to get involved in campus opportunities, I have shifted my focus to the actual opportunities and the possible reasons behind a lack of commitment and engagement in these opportunities.

Through this process, I have found myself constantly looking back on the reasons that I volunteered for the CPT and remain involved in ACUI. A feeling of obligation or responsibility has never once been a deciding factor. Rather, my main reasons have been the ones that were repeated over and over again in my conversations with previous CPT volunteers; the experience, skills, friendships, challenges, insight, and rewards by far exceeded the requirements of the opportunity. Personally, I was reminded that no matter how long I have been in the profession there is room for growth and skill development; that no matter how many conferences I attend, I will not fully appreciate the purpose until I have been involved in the entire planning and implementation process; that there are many talented individuals in the field that face the same challenges and opportunities that I face on a daily basis; and that the reward for volunteering is the feeling of personal achievement rather than an obligation or external expectation.

I encourage all professional and student members to look for opportunities that will provide new experiences and personal challenges within ACUI or within the boundaries of their campus. Force yourself to leave your comfort zone and your everyday routines behind. Chances are you will be amazed at the personal reward you receive for your time and efforts.