



# NEACAC

N E W S L E T T E R

## SUMMER INSTITUTE 2011

Summer Institute, in its 36<sup>th</sup> year, welcomed secondary school counselors and college admission officers from New England, and as far away as Indiana, to the banks of the Merrimack River Valley and Southern New Hampshire University from July 25-28. Designed as a professional development opportunity for educators with less than two years of experience in the field of college admission, the Institute hosted 77 participants, 14 faculty members and 6 guest speakers to a week of learning, sharing, networking, and oh yes, singing, too, karaoke style.



*(mentor group at Summer Institute)*

Kicking off the week's full agenda were Steve Thomas, Director of Admission at Colby College and Greg Williams, Director of College Counseling at The Westminster School, who inspired the audience with their wit, expertise and experiences in the profession. Their humor and relaxed approach to discussing current trends in the field set the right tone for the week ahead. Curriculum Sessions led by the Institute's faculty were the heart and soul of the program. The group was divided into 3 tracks: College Admission 0-6 months, College Admission 7-24 months and Secondary School Counseling. Anthony Berry from Trinity College, who served as Chair, and Courtney Skeritt from the Hockaday School in Dallas, TX, as Co-Chair, steered a talented and experienced group of faculty members, which included: Shawn Ahern (Boston College High School), Pam Appleton (Philips Exeter Academy), Michelle Beauregard (Bryant University), Julie Bragg (Granby High School), Heather Deardorff (St. Paul's School), Jeff Gallant (Boston College), Grant Gosselin (Babson College), Diane Raymond (New England College), Peg Richmond (Keene State College), Cheryl Ryan (Branford High School), Cicily Shaw (Boston Trinity Academy), Beth Wisner (University of Vermont) and Mo Zelaya (Buckingham, Browne & Nichols School). Additionally, Summer Institute 2011 was able to award registration scholarships to four participants through the generosity of NEACAC and ACT.

Participants were encouraged to offer insight, collaborate on handling difficult scenarios and ask many questions in a variety of settings. Mentor Groups facilitated discussion and intimate dialogue between a small group of attendees and the two faculty members assigned to mentor them. Larger sessions brought the entire Institute together to hear from a series of outside speakers. Kendra Lider-Johnson, from MEFA, described the fundamentals of Financial Aid, Joy St. John

(Wellesley College) demystified the complexities of FERPA and Paul Bonito (Boston College) offered advice in discussing the challenges of Multi-Cultural Recruitment.

Between the sessions, the networking and the professionalism exhibited by the participants, Summer Institute 2011 was a giant success. At the closing ceremony the enthusiasm and energy from the audience in the auditorium were palpable. Mariclare O'Neal, a secondary school counselor who attended the Institute, remarked, "It was a wonderful experience that I know will positively shape my development as a School Counselor. I have tremendous passion for this field and look forward to using all I learned this week to help me grow into my role as an educator and counselor at Chelmsford High School."

Educators entering the field of secondary school counseling or college admission are strongly encouraged to attend Summer Institute 2012, July 23-26, 2012 (location TBA). Registration will open in January 2012. This is a fantastic way to launch your career and learn from seasoned professionals, as well as each other, and begin to establish yourself in this incredibly rewarding field.

If you are interested in joining the faculty, applications are now being accepted through October 14, 2011. Please refer to the NEACAC website for an application and more detailed information. If you have any questions about Summer Institute 2012, please contact Mo Zelaya (Chair) at 617-800-2235 or [mzelaya@bbns.org](mailto:mzelaya@bbns.org) or Jeff Gallant (Co-Chair) at 617-552-2413 or [Jeffrey.gallant@bc.edu](mailto:Jeffrey.gallant@bc.edu). \*

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## A Message from the President



Fall is here and so is the start of a new school year. New students have started at our institutions, both high schools and colleges, and we have all returned to the usual frenzied pace of the fall. On the college side, most of us are globe-trotting to meet with counselors and students in their home areas, while high school counselors are busy writing recommendations, meeting with droves of admission officers, and counseling panicked students. The energy in the air is palpable!

Of course, for some of our volunteers in NEACAC, the summer was far from quiet and calm. I had the pleasure of greeting almost 75 new or nearly new members of our profession at Summer Institute in July. This four-day workshop, held at Southern New Hampshire University, was led by Anthony Berry (Trinity College), Courtney Skerritt (Hockaday School), and their dedicated group of faculty. All accounts of the Institute tell of a remarkable group of new professionals who learned a lot about our field while getting to know one another in the process.

Also in July, 40 counselors attended the Advanced Secondary School Counselors Summer Institute that took place at Wheaton College (MA). These counselors, who have been in the profession for at least five years, came to this Institute to share best practices, hear from a panel of college deans, and visit three colleges in Providence. Again here, much information was shared and new connections were formed, all thanks to a great group of faculty with Kelly Richards (St. George's School) at the helm.

At a third gathering this summer, NEACAC's Governing Board held its annual Leadership Development Institute (LDI). For two days at Endicott College in August, Committee Chairs, Assembly Delegates and alternate Delegates met with the Executive Board to identify goals and set the stage for a year of collaboration and leadership in the organization. Together we also had our first Governing Board meeting of the year, approved a robust 2011-2012 budget, and announced the work of three ad hoc committees: the Ad Hoc Committees on Leadership and Governance (both of which began their work last year and have moved into phase two), and the Strategic Plan Task Force. I think it is safe to say that we all left LDI energized for the year, but with a rather long "list of things to do"!

A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who spent so much of their personal time this summer making NEACAC what it is. And thank you, too, to the institutions that support NEACAC's important work!

As always, I am available via email, [acembor@wheatoncollege.edu](mailto:acembor@wheatoncollege.edu), or phone, 508-286-3772, if you ever have a question or concern.

Wishing you all a safe and happy fall,

Amy M. Cembor  
President, NEACAC  
Wheaton College (MA)

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## NEACAC HELPS SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL REBUILD

Students at Cathedral High School in Springfield, MA found their school year cut short on June 1st when tornadoes severely damaged the structure. Nearby Elms College welcomed Cathedral's students to its campus to finish up the academic year. The fall opening of school has been delayed a week (until after Labor Day), as Cathedral is moving temporarily to a vacant elementary school in Wilbraham, a neighboring community.

The New England Association of College Admission Counseling (NEACAC) is committed to helping Cathedral recover and rebuild. Supported by NEACAC, Cathedral will receive a year's complimentary membership to both NACAC and NEACAC. Membership to NACAC gives the Cathedral counselors the opportunity to access fee waivers for college applications, among other professional opportunities. The school will also receive \$1000 to help get its guidance office up and running again. NEACAC is assisting in the search for a new venue for the college fair Cathedral usually holds in late October, as the temporary facility is small and not appropriate for a college fair. Springfield College has already been contacted and work is underway to help host this event for Cathedral and local area high school students.

It is NEACAC's hope that our member colleges will reach out to Cathedral by visiting them at their temporary site and understanding the magnitude of this natural disaster. Please feel free to contact the Cathedral guidance staff, either Cheryl Del Viscio, director ([cdelviscio@cathedralhigh.org](mailto:cdelviscio@cathedralhigh.org)) or Pat Gregory ([patgregory@cathedralhigh.org](mailto:patgregory@cathedralhigh.org)), phone 413-782-5285. The former address is still active: 260 Surrey Road, Springfield, MA 01118.

NEACAC is also looking for an individual who is interested in submitting a NACAC Imagine fund Grant for Cathedral High School to continue to receive the assistance needed to help its students through the admission process. The NACAC Imagine Fund supports the work of college admission counseling professionals as they help students realize their full educational potential. The fund advances the profession by offering varying amounts of funding for either professional development or student programming. If you are interested in writing a grant to help Cathedral or any other secondary school in need, please check the NACAC website for an application.

Cathedral High School was founded in 1883 and currently enrolls approximately 450 students, who hail from throughout western Massachusetts. It is a school steeped in history which has sent thousands of students on to post-secondary education. Known for its high caliber of students, Cathedral boasts a 96% college placement rate.

# THE 2011 HARRY R. CARROLL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



The Harry R. Carroll Distinguished Service Award is awarded annually to a college admissions counseling professional whose contributions and achievements merit special recognition and

whose work reflects the spirit and principles of Harry R. Carroll. Harry R. Carroll (1924-1982) was known for his sense of fair play and good humor, leadership, guidance and wise counsel to colleagues both in New England and throughout the United States. His standards of excellence, his dedication to fair and impartial work on behalf of students and his commitment to the ethical standards of the admissions profession have set a high mark for those who follow.

This award is presented to an individual in the admission and counseling professions whose outstanding contributions and achievement deserve special recognition. The 2011 recipient for the Harry R. Carroll Distinguished Service Award is Sam Smith, from Stonehill College in Easton, MA. Sam was recognized at an awards ceremony held on June 9, 2011 during the Annual Meeting and Conference at Stonehill. \*

# NEACAC'S 2011 IDEAL AWARD



The IDEAL (Inclusion, Diversity, Education, Access and Leadership) Award seeks to recognize an individual, institution or organization that has demonstrated consistent and long-standing commitment to issues

of access (including, but not limited to, students of color, first generation students, low-income, undocumented and or LB-GTQ). The recipient of this award is actively engaged in activities associated with access and has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to and positive outcome for students. The 2011 NEACAC IDEAL award recipient is Louisa M. Martin, from Southern New Hampshire University. Louisa was recognized at an awards ceremony at Stonehill College during the Annual Meeting and Conference on Thursday, June 9, 2011. \*

The Affiliate Presidents Council and the Imagine Fund are pleased to announce the opening of the 2012 Imagine Grants Program. Submission Deadline: December 1, 2011.

**Imagine** a grant for your professional development needs or a special project that will help your students.

**Apply** online at [www.nacacnet.org/ImagineGrants](http://www.nacacnet.org/ImagineGrants). If you or your students are underserved, NACAC's Imagine Grants are for you.

**Grow** professionally and personally by continuing your involvement despite a restricted budget. NACAC has the resources!

**Imagine Grant Recipient:** Jon Westover  
Senior Associate Director  
Undergraduate Admissions  
University of Massachusetts Amherst

**Imagine Grant Awarded for:**  
Special Project—Massachusetts School  
Counselor Advocacy Day

*"Those who attended the Advocacy Day learned first-hand how their involvement in advocacy efforts can assist in elevating their profession."*

# NEACAC'S 2011 WILLIAM S. NEAL RISING STAR AWARD

The 2011 William S. Neal Rising Star Award was awarded to Sarah Brookshire of Emerson College, MA. This award honors the legacy of William S. Neal, a quintessential New Englander whose warm steadfast leadership and guidance touched the lives of many students, families and counselors during his thirty-two years in the profession.

The William S. Neal Award passes Bill's torch to a NEACAC member who has been engaged in association activities and who has shown particular commitment to students and the profession, with promise for continued service and leadership. Sarah was recognized at an awards ceremony held during the Annual Meeting and Conference at Stonehill College on June 9th, 2011. \*



## NEACAC MEMBER RECIPIENT OF NACAC'S RISING STAR AWARD

Each year, NACAC honors professionals or programs that have demonstrated excellence in the field of higher education. Each state and regional affiliate is asked to identify these individuals or programs so that they will be recognized and encouraged to continue their good work through membership in NACAC.

NACAC's 2011 Rising Star for New England is Bill Jack from Colby College, ME. His nominator, Elizabeth Cheron from Northeastern University, describes Bill as "ambitious, committed, thorough, motivated and a team player." Bill has served for three years on NEACAC's Professional Development Committee and for three years on NEACAC's Annual Meeting and Conference Committee. Additionally, he is the incoming chair of NEACAC's Communications Services Committee. This fall Bill will co-chair NEACAC's Students in Admissions Forum (SIAF) for the third year in a row. Under Bill's leadership this event has grown to over 200 attendees. Last year, as co-chair of our "Colleagues and Conversation" networking program in Maine, Bill increased the number of counselors attending to thirty from the previous year's ten through his marketing and recruitment efforts. Bill has contributed greatly to the success of our Annual Meeting and Conference by serving on the Welcoming and Evaluation Committee for two years. In all that he does, Bill attends to the details, goes where he is needed, and gives 100%.

NACAC's Rising Star recipients will be recognized at the national conference in New Orleans, LA this fall. They will also receive a complimentary individual membership for one year in NACAC and their state or regional affiliate and complimentary registration to the national conference for the current year. The winner will also be announced in the NACAC Bulletin.

On behalf of NEACAC, congratulations to Bill for all of his hard work. \*

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